

MARRIAGE
& *families*



FAMILY TRADITIONS
ENGAGEMENT REPORT CARD

EDITOR'S NOTES — OF THIS PREMIERE ISSUE

PRE-MARRIAGE QUERIES & FIDDLER-ON-THE-ROOF TRADITIONS

You've just picked up the first issue of *MARRIAGE & FAMILIES*—a very different publication. All of us are besieged with information. Newspapers and the nightly news often include the “study of the week”—or sometimes the “study of the day.” The problem is that many of these *studies* are filled with misinformation. Among the misinformation we've been fed recently is the so-called research that would have us believe pedophilia is not harmful. It is. And much of society has been sold the idea that cohabiting without marriage is acceptable. It isn't. In fact, some don't even want us to use the “m” word, marriage. But without apology, the name of our publication begins with this “m” word which is so important that we'll spend lots of time finding articles that will help strengthen marriages and families. Credible research and information support time-tested principles such as saving sex for marriage and fidelity in marriage.

Since marriage is such an important foundation for a family and with so many marriages coming unglued these days, it makes sense to figure out how to put marriages together that will be stronger to start with. Unfortunately many young people start out marriage not knowing much more about each other than those who set out to glue wood to metal without knowing enough to make this work. Whether you have stars in your eyes thinking about getting married, or stars in your eyes trying to counsel others about getting or staying married, I think you'll be fascinated with the article by Tom Holman and Lisa Hawkins about finding strengths and weaknesses in a relationship before a couple marries. Whether a couple is dating or engaged, a marriage assessment query can provide insights about things that often can be worked out before big bumps crop up—along with an understanding about differences that happen in every marriage.

And Lloyd Newell's article about how traditions strengthen families is filled with clues for people each of us tries to help as well as for our own families. I love the musical, *Fiddler on the Roof*—and over the years have thought about the trials Tevye had with his family, a few of which were not unlike our own. But as I think about Tevye singing about traditions and read this article, I'm reminded how important traditions have been in our family—things like going out to dinner for each person's birthday, holiday breakfasts cooked by dad, sitting down to dinner together (sometimes—but not regularly enough), and family home evenings every Monday night. Lloyd's article can help as we think about using traditions to build roots and unity in our own families as well as in families we want to help.

I hope you'll enjoy this issue of *MARRIAGE & FAMILIES* so much that you'll make a tradition of reading it—and each quarterly issue that follows from cover to cover.



Glen C. Griffin, M.D.

Glen Griffin is the editor-in-chief of Marriage & Families, a member of the faculty of Brigham Young University's School of Family Life, president of the American Family League, and author of It Takes a Parent to Raise a Child.

MARRIAGE & FAMILIES is a peer-reviewed journal for young couples, husbands & wives, parents, and professionals—including educators, counselors, therapists, psychologists, physicians, social workers, nurses, public health people, teachers, clergy, experts in family law, and everyone interested in marriage and families. Our editorial board members belong to many faiths—with a common belief in the importance of traditional families. *MARRIAGE & FAMILIES* is dedicated to strengthening families. Without apology, our name begins with the word *marriage*—a concept that many dismiss or completely ignore these days. However, since marriage and fidelity are essentials, not options, in a healthy society, we are pleased to bring you a publication containing credible data supporting this and other time-tested principles and values related to the family.



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