

FOUR UNION AUTHORS PUBLISHED

GUSHEE MAKES *GETTING MARRIAGE RIGHT* A PRIORITY

For Dr. David Gushee, counseling sessions with students who have experienced the trauma of divorce led him to consider the state of the institution of marriage in America. He concluded that the problem was worse than expected.

Gushee's book *Getting Marriage Right*, released April 1, 2004, provides cultural and historical analysis as well as a proposal for a Christian theological and ethical vision of marriage, he said. Gushee is the Graves professor of moral philosophy at Union University.

"The book is a searching explanation of what has happened to the institution of marriage; how has it changed," said Gushee. "The basic idea is that it has weakened over the past several hundred years but especially over the last 40 years, since 1965."

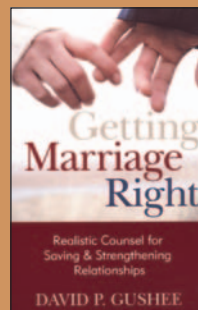
In the course of the last seven years, Gushee and his students have interviewed more than

80 children of divorce.

Portions of those interviews are included in the book and serve to show the consequences of the weakening of marriage on the children. According to Gushee, his initial editor at Baker Books commented that, "Everyone in America should read this chapter." It was pretty powerful just letting the students tell their stories," he said.

At a recent book signing at Davis-Kidd in Jackson, Gushee heard from several customers who were purchasing the book as a gift for engaged couples. The idea strikes Gushee as "much better than another cheese server to make them think about what they're committing to."

Additionally, Gushee recommends the book



for church leaders and pastors. "It provides substantive guidance to their ministries of preaching, teaching and counseling," he said.

He also said the book can provide hope for children of divorce and renewal for couples in long-term marriages. "They need a sense of renewed vision and enthusiasm to stick to the covenant promises they have made.

"I'm really passionate about this book and the need that it addresses," Gushee said. "I'm eager to speak about this book in any venue - churches, street corners - because so much is at stake, so many lives. I'm personally trying to put the book in as many hands as possible. I've cleared some of my Sunday morning and Sunday evening obligations so I can get on the road with this book." [@](#)

Excerpts from Getting Marriage Right will appear in the September issues of Christianity Today and Books and Culture.

DOCKERY, GUTHRIE PUBLICATION AIDS LAITY IN BIBLE INTERPRETATION

The *Holman Guide to Interpreting the Bible* aims to introduce Christian laypeople to the basics of Bible study and interpretation. In the 100 page guide, co-authors David S. Dockery and George H. Guthrie explain the importance, history and practical steps for interpretation.

David S. Dockery, president of Union University, hopes to impart the reader with "a sense that the Bible will no longer be a mysterious book to them but one they can begin to understand."

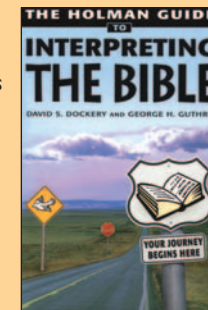
Each person who reads the Bible makes choices of interpretation. "It's a question of whether they're doing it well," said Guthrie, Benjamin W. Perry Professor of Bible and chair of the department of Christian studies at Union.

Guthrie sees a need for churches to teach members to effectively interpret scripture. "In the church we hold up the Bible as our authority," he said, "yet we don't teach people how to study it.

We don't even teach them how to read it well."

The guide complements the mission of the R.C. Ryan Center for Biblical Studies at Union. "It begins to get the vision of the center outside the walls of the center itself," Guthrie said. "The ultimate mission of the center is to effect churches all over the US and even across the world by promoting sound bible study methods and principles of interpretation."

Because it is intended as an introduction to the basics of interpretation, rather than as a full textbook, the guide is purposefully brief but broad in scope. In providing a context for beginning study, the authors outline the history of biblical interpretation. Dockery explained the needed perspective history provides for



readers new to interpretation. "Most people fail to grasp that it is very challenging to jump back 2000 years into another time, another language, another culture without recognizing that we are standing on the shoulders of dozens of people who have labored hard to help us understand the Bible throughout church history," he said.

Both authors hope the guide will be a starting point for laypeople to begin deeper study of interpretation methods. Dockery recommended the book as a resource for Sunday school teachers and other leaders who have not taken extensive courses in Bible study methods.

Dockery signed copies of the book at the LifeWay booth at the Southern Baptist Convention in Indianapolis on June 14. Complimentary, signed copies of the guide were given to those who attended the alumni and friends dessert reception the second night of the convention. [@](#)

POE GIVES MODEL TO MELD FAITH AND SCHOLARSHIP WITH *CHRISTIANITY IN THE ACADEMY*

Where should your faith intersect with your work? This is the question Dr. Hal Poe proposes to answer for academicians in his book *Christianity in the Academy: Teaching at the Intersection of Faith and Learning*.

Poe is the Charles Colson professor of faith & culture and special assistant to the president at Union University.

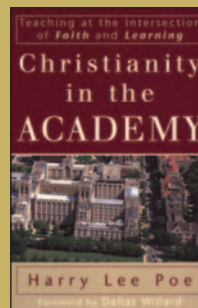
The integration of faith and scholarship has long been discussed from a variety of sources. Poe named Charles Colson as one prominent figure advocating that Christians become engaged in scholarship, and the C.S. Lewis Foundation has been working since the mid-80s with Christian faculty, especially in secular settings. Christians "tend to be incognito" in the workplace, Poe said.

"In different books, articles and conferences, Christians are told that they ought to engage their scholarship as a Christian, but no one has really come up with a model for how you do that.

"Professors tend to be trained in a secular setting at major research universities so that

secularism has become an assumption of their work because they've never seen how to do it any other way. Essentially, my book presents an approach for recovering a faith perspective for teaching and scholarship," Poe said.

Union President David S. Dockery said "We congratulate Hal Poe on another important publication from his prolific pen. The world of higher education in the 21st century is filled with dizzy confusion. In the midst of this confusion is a most helpful voice for Christians who want to serve in the context of higher education. Hal Poe's wonderful book on the place of Christianity in the academy is a most welcome addition to the important literature of recent days by the likes of Marsden, Benne, Burtchael, Holmes, and Hughes. Poe's thoughtful insights will certainly provide positive direction for academic leaders, faculty members, trustees, and students alike."



In this work, Poe develops an idea he first put into print in his 1996 publication, *The Gospel and its Meaning*.

"Teaching from a faith perspective involves recognizing the implications of the Gospel in one's own discipline," Poe said. "In *Christianity in the Academy*, I take some of the more prominent of disciplines found in colleges and universities and illustrate how their concern relates to some aspect of the Gospel. It is a bare introduction but hopefully will jog people into seeing what some of the critical issues might be in their discipline."

The book was premiered in March at the Soul of the University Conference at Baylor where all available copies sold out. Poe has high hopes for the book because it has such a large potential audience. He quoted Stan Matson of the C.S. Lewis Foundation who estimates that there as many as 50,000 Christian faculty members working in higher education in the United States. Students will also find the book to be a helpful resource as they consider how to integrate faith with their studies. [@](#)

UNION PHOTOGRAPHER AND FORMER UNION MEDIA DIRECTOR DOCUMENT STORIES OF CHRISTIANS AT WAR

Many of my media colleagues seem intent on...confirming that troop morale is suffering or proving that our efforts to bring democracy to Iraq are fraught with failure," best-selling author, U.S. Marine and FOX News correspondent Oliver North wrote in the forward of *A Greater Freedom: Stories of Faith from Operation Iraqi Freedom*.

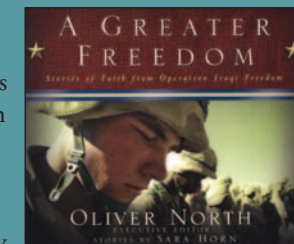
North served as executive editor for *A Greater Freedom*, a photo essay of Christian men and women who are risking their lives in Iraq. But the real work was done by Sara Horn, a writer for LifeWay Christian Resources' corporate communications in Nashville, and Jim Veneman, a photojournalist and director of visual communications from Union University, Jackson, Tenn. The two also endangered their lives and left behind families to document how Christian servicemen and women handle war.

"I went because I felt this was something God called me to do," Horn said. "I didn't seek out any of this. I believe the stories we brought back can minister to people - whether

they are soldiers themselves, family members of soldiers or even people with no connection to the military. "We all face struggles every day that test our faith. I think that if men and women who are literally put in harm's way, like our military, can keep a strong faith, then what's our excuse not to here in America?"

Award winning writer and photographer, Horn and Veneman, traveled to the war zone twice: once in March 2003 to document stories of Christian Navy personnel aboard the USS Harry S. Truman on the East Mediterranean Sea and again in November 2003 to Baghdad where they followed an Army Reserve unit attached to the 1st Armored Division and an Army regiment in the 82nd Airborne.

The stories and photos range from a young Navy man who received Christ on the Truman and was baptized in a metal munitions



container to an Iraqi pastor who risked his and his family's lives to spread the Gospel through an illegal media ministry run out of his home.

"This man was arrested by Saddam's agents before the war for having a media ministry that stretched throughout Iraq," Horn said. "Now that the war is officially over, he's started a church and is actively trying to minister to his fellow Iraqis, a witness to God's love and protection on him and his family. If anyone has doubts to why coalition forces invaded Iraq, they need to read this man's story.

"Seeing these Iraqi Christians, many of them new believers since the combat phase ended, worshipping with hands and voices raised, was powerful. I felt like God was saying in a really clear way, 'This is the Greater Freedom - to worship freely without fear.' And it's a freedom He wants everyone in the world to have. It's not reserved just for us." [@](#)

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