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## The Mystery of Marriage: As Iron Sharpens Iron

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divorce ranging from 3 years old to over 30. The emotional wounds do not heal quickly.

For anyone who deals with divorce—going through it or counseling others—this book is a must. Sunday school teachers and others working with children should also read its wealth of compassionate insight and competent advice. The book includes a read-aloud story for children whose parents are divorcing, to help them understand and cope with the situation. (Pyranee Books/Zondervan, 1986, 342 pp., \$8.95)

■ **Stephen R. Clark** and  
**Mike J. Kachura**

#### **CHRISTIAN EXCELLENCE: ALTERNATIVE TO SUCCESS** by **Jon Johnston**

There seems to be an abundance of books on the market today with an emphasis on excellence. So, one might ask, why another one? The answer is perspective. Most books found at your local bookstore refer to excellence as a road to success—money, power, and influence. Jon Johnston writes that biblical excellence should be a goal in itself. This excellence is built upon and produced through *agape* love. While success, as the world sees it, may be a by-product, it is not what should be sought. He examines the need for excellence in a world of mediocrity, then gives a biblical basis for an emphasis on excellence, and finally the development of excellence in the individual through the use of one's gifts. The book is a challenge to "prosperity theology" and a call to biblical holiness. (Baker Book House, 1985, 227 pp., \$6.95 paper, \$9.95 hardback)

■ **Charles E. Johnson, Jr.**

#### **THE MYSTERY OF MARRIAGE** by **Mike Mason**

Mike Mason has given us distilled wisdom on the nature of marriage itself. His chapters on otherness, love, intimacy, vows, sex, submission, and death tell what it actually means for two to become one in unique and in-

#### **An excerpt from THE MYSTERY OF MARRIAGE**

You cannot leave a marriage sitting in the driveway even for a day, because the only reason for marriage is togetherness. It is an alliance of love, and love is a spiritual vehicle, a rocket ship, that travels faster and farther than anything else under the sun. Get out of it for a moment, and it leaves without you for parts unknown; let it idle, and it begins to rust; neglect it, and it seizes

right up. It can be a full-time job just being a passenger in this thing. But like it or not, you and your spouse are in it together, and in it for life, and the work of traveling in marriage is the most vital work you can do. In the Lord's plan for the world there is no work more important than the work of relationship, and no relationship is more important than that of one's marriage.

sightful ways. Mason explains, "It is not a 'how-to' book so much as a 'how-come' book, a meditative inquiry into the spiritual foundations upon which marriage is built." Whether you have been married 20 days or 20 years, you will find reading that enlightens, illuminates, and thrills the heart with new understanding of the marriage relationship. It lays bare the hopes, ambitions, fears, and faults of our marital existence and offers help, consolation, and growth. The depths of soul revealed and the excellent style and expression will lift and revitalize even those who feel they have the best marriages. This is truly a rare jewel among hundreds of drab rocks that pretend to be books written on the topic of marriage. (Multnomah Press, 1985, 185 pp., \$10.95)

■ **James A. Borland** and  
**Angela Elwell Hunt**

#### **THE CHRISTIAN ATTITUDE TOWARD WAR** by **Loraine Boettner**

In an age of world wars and their constant threat, we need to know what the Christian attitude should be toward war. Boettner's arguments are biblically sound, and supported by a clear and careful treatment of relevant Scriptures. Boettner, born in 1901, is a well-informed, noted author with seven other major books to her credit. The book is factual, very interesting, and easy to understand, even when dealing with the complex issues of war, peace, militarism, pacificism, and just and unjust wars. The brevity and low cost of this volume make it even more

appealing. (Presbyterian & Reform Publishing, 1985, 91 pp., \$3.95)  
■ **James A. Borland**

#### **P A S T O R**

#### **THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD** by **Peter Toon**

This volume is a compilation of Peter Toon's lectures given at D. Theological Seminary in 1983. It represents the first full-length book on the doctrine of the Ascension in 100 years. The author treats the New Testament narratives about the Ascension and the Old Testament passages where the Ascension is prefigured. He provides an appendix of Greek words used for *ascension* and *exaltation*. Furthermore, Toon thoroughly discusses the relationship between Catholic and Protestant understandings of Christ's Ascension and its vital place in Christian theology. (Thomas Nelson, 1984, 153 pp., \$5.95) ■ **Ed Hind**

#### **FALSE GODS OF OUR TIME** by **Norman Geisler**

This book is packed with careful responses and convincing evidence to the major attacks on Christianity in contemporary society. The existence and nature of God, the historicity of Jesus, and the reliability of Scripture are all dealt with.