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Review: 'Sex and Marriage in the Unification Movement: A Sociological Study'

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Equals Before God: Seminarians as Humanistic Professionals. By Sherryll Kleinman. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1984. ix + 133 pages. \$15.00.

Equals Before God is a study of the socialization of seminarians at "Midwest Seminary"—a real, but not identified, Protestant seminary located on the campus of a large university near a midwestern city. The author employed techniques of participant observation and interviewing to get inside the students' experiences of training for and taking on the identity of a minister. What complicates the students' experience of their socialization as ministers, and what makes the book particularly interesting, is the context, which the author defines as the decline of a traditional, authoritarian model of ministry and its replacement by a humanistic model—with emphasis on the equality of all believers, including the minister. The book reveals how the conflict between authoritarian and egalitarian models for ministry is present in the students themselves (e.g., in their expectations of ministry, in their sense of being called to a career in ministry, and so on), in the faculty (who are the principal socializers), in the students' perceptions of the congregations which they will serve in the future. In fact, all aspects of the students' experience of Midwest Seminary display this conflict at work because it is embedded so deeply in the rhetoric and symbols which constitute the medium of social interaction in this community.

The study is interesting and informative since it reveals how a dominant model for ministry influences and complicates every element of life in the socializing community—classes, field experiences, personal prayer, social life, and so on. The study does not reveal what, if anything, the seminary is doing to deal with this conflict in models of ministry and what effect such efforts are having. Since the author's perspective is sociological, not theological, the shift in ministerial model, from authoritarian to humanistic, is never questioned. Many theological questions are suggested by the study: is this the right way to name the shift, should this shift be accepted or counteracted, is the so-called humanistic religion an adequate and appropriate rendering of Christian tradition? Thus, the book is only the prologue to an inquiry into the theological dimensions of the experience of the students of Midwest Seminary.

This book could be quite useful in courses dealing with the social processes by which one appropriates a religious, or even denominational, affiliation. It is, however, rather expensive—and perhaps prohibitively so.

La Salle University

MICHAEL J. MCGINNISS, F.S.C.

Sex and Marriage in the Unification Movement: A Sociological Study. Studies in Religion and Society, 13. By James H. Grace. New York: Mellen, 1985. 284 pages. \$49.95.

Dr. James H. Grace, who is trained in both theological and sociological method, provides in this volume an impartial study of sexuality and marriage in the Unification Movement. While carefully researched, this book, the latest in the Studies in Religion and Society series, is clear, crisp, and keeps to a minimum theological and sociological jargon. Grace's study is based not only on

the voluminous material from inside and outside the movement, but also on visits to church centers and on hundreds of hours of interviews with present and former members.

The author demonstrates that Unification theology is unique among Christian theologies both past and present in that sexuality and marriage are integral parts of its doctrine of God, Creation, the Fall, and Restoration. God, whose deepest nature is heart and love, combines both masculinity and femininity. God desires men and women to be united as husband and wife and give birth to sinless children of God, thereby establishing a sinless family and ultimately a sinless world.

Eve sinned by having sexual intercourse with Satan, the angel Lucifer. She then seduced Adam. Through intercourse with Eve, Adam inherited the evil element which Eve had received from Lucifer. These evil elements were then transmitted to their descendants.

Through his death and resurrection Jesus was victorious over Satan, and thus made possible spiritual salvation for those who are reborn through him and the Holy Spirit. The restoration of the Kingdom of God on earth awaits the Second Coming of Christ. Christ will come as before and will establish a family through marriage to his Bride, and they will become the True Parents of all mankind. Through accepting and obeying the True Parents, our original sin is eliminated and we will eventually become perfect. This Second Coming of Christ is now at hand through the Lord of the Second Advent, Sun Myung Moon. Father Moon and his wife Mother Moon are the True Parents of mankind.

The author then proceeds to explain how this theological framework influences Unification theology and practice in regard to sexuality and marriage. Among the components of this sexual and marital theology are: the prohibition of premarital sex and homosexual activity; male dominance in sex roles; the matching and blessing of couples by Sun Moon; the separation of the couple (up to a few years) between the time of the matching and the time of the blessing; the separations during the marriage that enable the husband and wife to pursue their world-saving mission; and the opposition to divorce.

This book is very ecumenical in its approach. It provides an enlightened and sympathetic view of a movement about which most people know very little but have extremely strong feelings. Except for its exorbitant price, the book would be of value as supplementary reading in a college marriage course, for it would open the eyes of middle-class American students to a quite different cultural and religious approach to marriage that is taking place right in our midst.

University of Dayton

WILLIAM P. ROBERTS

James Madison on Religious Liberty. Edited by Robert S. Alley. Buffalo, NY: Prometheus, 1986. 338 pages. \$20.95.

This volume brings together selected writings by Madison on religion and the separation of church and state, as well as twenty-six essays by various authors, some only two or three pages in length. One intent of the editor is to illumine the mind of Madison on freedom of conscience and on the meaning of the religion clauses of the First Amendment. In this he generally succeeds,

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