

# How to Act Right When Your Spouse Acts Wrong

## Chapter Highlights

*Find these sentences on the page numbers given and fill in the blanks. Book discussion will be over these sentences.*

### Introduction

1. God uses the imperfections, differences, and \_\_\_\_\_ of your spouse to help you \_\_\_\_\_ to be more like \_\_\_\_\_ p. 2
2. Marriage isn't about \_\_\_\_\_ the right person but about \_\_\_\_\_ the right person. p. 2
3. God tells us that deepening our relationship with \_\_\_\_\_ is the very \_\_\_\_\_ to our well-being and \_\_\_\_\_. p.3
4. Maturity and growth usually take place in the context of \_\_\_\_\_. p.3
5. What's right in one situation may be \_\_\_\_\_ in another. You may need to speak up and \_\_\_\_\_ enforce \_\_\_\_\_ for destructive behaviors. Or, acting right may involve keeping \_\_\_\_\_ at times and \_\_\_\_\_ our spouse's weaknesses. p. 5
6. As we start learning how to act \_\_\_\_\_ when our spouse acts \_\_\_\_\_, we will begin to see what \_\_\_\_\_ is doing to make \_\_\_\_\_ more like Him in the \_\_\_\_\_ of marital \_\_\_\_\_. P. 6
7. Perhaps most important of all, learning to act \_\_\_\_\_ when our spouse acts \_\_\_\_\_ will force us to \_\_\_\_\_ for a \_\_\_\_\_ relationship with \_\_\_\_\_. It will stretch our faith and \_\_\_\_\_ in God as we struggle to \_\_\_\_\_ our will to His \_\_\_\_\_ for our life. P. 6

### Chapter 1: Why Bother to Act Right?

1. Acting right when our spouse acts wrong is \_\_\_\_\_ for us. p.9
2. Instead of asking \_\_\_\_\_, we turn and start asking God \_\_\_\_\_. What can we learn about \_\_\_\_\_ and our life from this \_\_\_\_\_? We ask God for a \_\_\_\_\_ faith to believe Him and to \_\_\_\_\_ and obey Him even when we don't \_\_\_\_\_. P. 11
3. Sometimes we do not experience any \_\_\_\_\_ or pleasure in the things \_\_\_\_\_ says are \_\_\_\_\_ for us. May things that we instinctively find \_\_\_\_\_ are indeed \_\_\_\_\_ for us. p.12

4. What if marriage wasn't designed primarily for our \_\_\_\_\_, but to teach us \_\_\_\_\_? p.14
5. Marriage is a spiritual discipline designed to help you know \_\_\_\_\_ better, trust Him more fully, and \_\_\_\_\_ Him more deeply. p.16
6. Often I feel a need for praise, \_\_\_\_\_, appreciation, or gratitude from someone I have been \_\_\_\_\_, but perhaps my \_\_\_\_\_ need is to develop \_\_\_\_\_, meekness, and \_\_\_\_\_. p.17
7. We must see our \_\_\_\_\_ as an opportunity to depend on \_\_\_\_\_ to meet our \_\_\_\_\_ needs. p.17
8. Things in a home \_\_\_\_\_ quickly when two sinners continue \_\_\_\_\_ at the \_\_\_\_\_ time. p.18
9. Mental Obstacles (list the points in bold italics pages 22-27)
- It's not \_\_\_\_\_! Why should I have to \_\_\_\_\_ on things when my spouse \_\_\_\_\_? P,22
  - What about \_\_\_\_\_? P. 24
  - I just want to be \_\_\_\_\_ p. 25
  - I don't \_\_\_\_\_ like it p. 27
  - I am \_\_\_\_\_ to trust God \_\_\_\_\_. P. 27
10. If we lose sight of the goal, \_\_\_\_\_, we will become \_\_\_\_\_ in our attempts to act right when our spouse acts wrong. P. 24
11. Part of \_\_\_\_\_ involves learning to \_\_\_\_\_ that God knows what He is doing and that personal \_\_\_\_\_ will be used to \_\_\_\_\_ us into the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ. P. 26
12. Jesus always zeros in on what is in our \_\_\_\_\_. p.30

## Chapter 2: What do my spouses wrongs reveal in me?

1. God sanctifies us, purifies us, and \_\_\_\_\_ us how to become more like \_\_\_\_\_ in the context of our \_\_\_\_\_. p.34
2. God may be using his or her imperfections, differences, \_\_\_\_\_ and sins to teach \_\_\_\_\_ valuable lessons on how to \_\_\_\_\_, how to forbear, how to have \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_, how to speak the \_\_\_\_\_ in love, and how to \_\_\_\_\_ our \_\_\_\_\_. p. 34
3. Our \_\_\_\_\_ to life's difficulties, specifically our \_\_\_\_\_ difficulties, strip us and give us a glimpse of what is really going on in our \_\_\_\_\_. p.35



### Chapter 3: Stop Reacting, Start Responding

1. Most of us are so caught up by what our spouse is doing \_\_\_\_\_ that we don't stop to think how to \_\_\_\_\_ to it, we just \_\_\_\_\_. p. 57
2. They have hit upon a dynamic that keeps their negative thoughts and \_\_\_\_\_ about each other (which \_\_\_\_\_ couples have) from overwhelming their \_\_\_\_\_ one. p.58
3. List the four negative reactions that will lead a couple toward divorce: p. 58-59
  - a. Escalating a \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_ comments
  - c. \_\_\_\_\_ comments
  - d. withdrawal and \_\_\_\_\_
4. If all we do is \_\_\_\_\_ to our spouse whenever he does something we don't like, we will send ourselves and our \_\_\_\_\_ into a \_\_\_\_\_ spiral. p. 59
5. We choose not to react \_\_\_\_\_ or recklessly, because such reactions are not in keeping with who we are as \_\_\_\_\_. p. 61
6. Write out Proverbs 29:11 p. 61
7. Blurting out \_\_\_\_\_ emotions is a lot like \_\_\_\_\_. You might feel \_\_\_\_\_ to get it out, but vomit belongs in the toilet, not on your \_\_\_\_\_. p.62
8. Keeping quiet or \_\_\_\_\_ until we can decide how to respond is an important \_\_\_\_\_ step in learning how to act \_\_\_\_\_. p. 63
9. You can sweep broken glass \_\_\_\_\_ the carpet, but eventually it will \_\_\_\_\_ its way through the rug and \_\_\_\_\_ your foot. p. 63
10. We are to overcome evil with \_\_\_\_\_. P. 65
11. Our real \_\_\_\_\_ is not our \_\_\_\_\_, as much as it might feel that way. Our enemy is \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_ he stands for. P. 66
12. Satan tries to deceive us into thinking that God's way will ultimately \_\_\_\_\_ us of something \_\_\_\_\_, like happiness or \_\_\_\_\_. His strategy is always to make a \_\_\_\_\_ reaction look \_\_\_\_\_ and a \_\_\_\_\_ response look \_\_\_\_\_. p. 66
13. We need to fight for a much \_\_\_\_\_ purpose, such as for the \_\_\_\_\_ of God, the \_\_\_\_\_ of our marriages, our spiritual \_\_\_\_\_ and well-being, and our children's \_\_\_\_\_. p. 67
14. The weapons we use to fight these battles must be the weapons \_\_\_\_\_ provides...the Word of God and \_\_\_\_\_. p. 68

15. We overcome \_\_\_\_\_ with good when we \_\_\_\_\_ to respond to wrongdoing in ways that are \_\_\_\_\_, righteous, and \_\_\_\_\_. p.68

16. Satan might have your \_\_\_\_\_ but don't let him have \_\_\_\_\_. He will have \_\_\_\_\_ of you if you react out of your sinful \_\_\_\_\_ nature. p. 70

17. When we remember that our \_\_\_\_\_ enemy is Satan, we do not do good in order to get our spouse to \_\_\_\_\_; we do \_\_\_\_\_ so that we are not overcome by \_\_\_\_\_. p. 70

18. It is not our task to mold our spouse; that is \_\_\_\_\_. p. 71

#### **Chapter 4: Guard Your Heart**

1. All the water in all the oceans cannot \_\_\_\_\_ a ship unless it gets \_\_\_\_\_. p. 73

2. Our heart (which includes or encompasses our \_\_\_\_\_, our emotions, and our \_\_\_\_\_) must be protected against anything that would \_\_\_\_\_ us from or threaten our \_\_\_\_\_ to Christ and our \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ in Him. p. 74

3. Another favorite strategy of Satan is to appeal to our \_\_\_\_\_ rather than to our deeper or \_\_\_\_\_. p. 75

4. Another one of Satan's favorite schemes is to trick us into thinking the \_\_\_\_\_ our \_\_\_\_\_ has committed against us or our children is so \_\_\_\_\_ that it is \_\_\_\_\_. p. 76

5. Satan might use other \_\_\_\_\_ to throw us off course. P. 77

6. God does want us to guard our heart against the \_\_\_\_\_ of heart, bitterness, \_\_\_\_\_, or \_\_\_\_\_ that can result from being in a \_\_\_\_\_ marriage. p. 78

7. We need to guard our heart against the \_\_\_\_\_ perpetrated by an overactive imagination that tends to always picture the \_\_\_\_\_ possible scenario. p. 79

8. A heart of fear will keep us focused on how to stay \_\_\_\_\_ rather than on how to \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ God. p. 79

9. We can be deceived by Satan into believing that \_\_\_\_\_ is happening, especially when we are trying very hard to \_\_\_\_\_ according to \_\_\_\_\_. p. 80

10. You will need to make a commitment to yourself \_\_\_\_\_ to pretend that things are \_\_\_\_\_ when they are \_\_\_\_\_. p. 81 When we pretend nothing is wrong, \_\_\_\_\_ don't go \_\_\_\_\_. P. 82

11. In order to guard our heart effectively, we must not only \_\_\_\_\_ what God is saying, we must also \_\_\_\_\_ Him. p. 83

12. The primary strength we have in warfare is \_\_\_\_\_, which is achieved only through \_\_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_\_. p. 85

13. We must make sure we are spending \_\_\_\_\_ time talking and \_\_\_\_\_ to God. God protects and \_\_\_\_\_ our heart...with \_\_\_\_\_. p. 86

## Chapter 5: Center Yourself in God

1. Our relationship with Him must be our \_\_\_\_\_ relationship. p. 88

2. There is an \_\_\_\_\_ in our soul that only \_\_\_\_\_ can fill. p.88

3. Our center is where we go to find peace, happiness, and \_\_\_\_\_. p. 89

4. Sadly, many of us, even \_\_\_\_\_, anchor ourselves to a deceptive or \_\_\_\_\_ center. p. 89

5. We are intrinsically and naturally inclined to believe the \_\_\_\_\_ that \_\_\_\_\_ are the center of everything or that life revolves around \_\_\_\_\_. p. 89

6. We don't really \_\_\_\_\_ God when He tells us that these \_\_\_\_\_ can and will be used for our \_\_\_\_\_. p. 90

7. We don't believe Him when He tells us that He is our deepest source of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. p. 90

8. If we are to grow in Christ, we will need to consciously \_\_\_\_\_ to die to \_\_\_\_\_ and to purposely center ourselves in \_\_\_\_\_. p. 91

9. Ultimately we will have to choose whether we are going to be \_\_\_\_\_-pleasers or \_\_\_\_\_-pleasers. p. 93

10. Job reminds us that when we \_\_\_\_\_ in anything other than God, it is about as \_\_\_\_\_ as leaning against a \_\_\_\_\_. p. 93

11. An equally \_\_\_\_\_ problem occurs when we allow others to put \_\_\_\_\_ at the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ lives. p. 93

12. God does \_\_\_\_\_ want us to center ourselves in loving \_\_\_\_\_ or having others love \_\_\_\_\_.

13. As we center our heart in God and learn to love Him with \_\_\_\_\_ of our heart, soul, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_, He equips us to \_\_\_\_\_ others with a \_\_\_\_\_ kind of love—His \_\_\_\_\_. p. 93

14. Loving others \_\_\_\_\_ comes out of loving Him \_\_\_\_\_. P. 93

15. Centering ourselves in God means collecting all that is scattered around us—our misplaced \_\_\_\_\_, our disordered \_\_\_\_\_, our \_\_\_\_\_, thoughts, \_\_\_\_\_--and \_\_\_\_\_ them to God. p. 94
16. The most important love relationship is not the one between a husband and a \_\_\_\_\_ but the one between \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_. p. 94
17. We will never be able to center ourselves in God or truly worship Him if we do not \_\_\_\_\_ Him. p. 94
18. God often answers our prayers in such a way as to bring us into a deeper \_\_\_\_\_ of who He is so that we can come to \_\_\_\_\_ on Him. p. 95
19. When we must have these things for our well-being, when we feel God is \_\_\_\_\_, then these desires have become \_\_\_\_\_ and have taken \_\_\_\_\_ place in our heart. These other \_\_\_\_\_, no matter how \_\_\_\_\_ and legitimate they are, \_\_\_\_\_ our intimacy with God. p. 97
20. Intimacy with God will not be achieved if we don't spend \_\_\_\_\_ with Him, honestly \_\_\_\_\_ with Him, \_\_\_\_\_ to Him, and building \_\_\_\_\_ by valuing and \_\_\_\_\_ what He tells us. p. 98
21. Centering our heart in God means that we believe God is the most desirable, \_\_\_\_\_ pursuit we have. Therefore, we will not allow \_\_\_\_\_ to take the place of our \_\_\_\_\_ with Him or to relegate Him to \_\_\_\_\_ place in our heart. p. 99
22. List the two promises of God from page 99:
- A.
- B.
23. We need to begin living at the point where \_\_\_\_\_, and nothing short of that, is about the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_. p. 100
24. If we want happiness and contentment in life, we must center ourselves in \_\_\_\_\_ and not in our self, our \_\_\_\_\_, or any other created \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_. It is only through \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ that we will find happiness, and true happiness cannot be found apart from centering ourselves in \_\_\_\_\_. p. 101

## Chapter 6: Recognize Your Power to Choose

1. Everything can be taken from a man but one thing: the last of the human freedoms—to \_\_\_\_\_ one's \_\_\_\_\_ in any given set of circumstances, to choose one's own way. p. 105

2. God gives us the ability to choose our \_\_\_\_\_ as well as our \_\_\_\_\_ toward \_\_\_\_\_ given situation. p. 106
3. Every choice we make, whether \_\_\_\_\_ or bad, right or wrong has \_\_\_\_\_. p. 107
4. This ability to delay what we want \_\_\_\_\_ for something \_\_\_\_\_ later is crucial if we are going to learn to make good \_\_\_\_\_ so that we can act right when our spouse acts wrong. p. 110
5. If we have an \_\_\_\_\_ outlook, preparing for eternity by \_\_\_\_\_ with a difficult marriage makes much more sense than \_\_\_\_\_ a family to gain \_\_\_\_\_ and easy relief. If we only have eyes for \_\_\_\_\_, the pain of a difficult marriage can feel \_\_\_\_\_. p. 110
6. The answer is, *Because* \_\_\_\_\_ *purposes encompass a bigger picture than you can* \_\_\_\_\_ *right* \_\_\_\_\_. p. 111
7. Our choices reveal what we \_\_\_\_\_ the most, what we fear, what is of ultimate \_\_\_\_\_ to us, and what we think we \_\_\_\_\_ in life. Our choices expose the \_\_\_\_\_ of our hearts. Is our dominant desire to be \_\_\_\_\_ or happy? p. 112
8. God often brings us to a crisis of \_\_\_\_\_ (usually through the \_\_\_\_\_ in life) when we must make a choice. Do we believe Him and what He tells us we \_\_\_\_\_ for life and for our well-being, or do we trust \_\_\_\_\_ or the ways of the \_\_\_\_\_? p. 116
9. We have \_\_\_\_\_ to give God that is ours alone except our \_\_\_\_\_. p. 116
10. Man is what his “will” makes him, and sin’s seat of \_\_\_\_\_ is in the human \_\_\_\_\_. p. 117
11. God loves you, created you, \_\_\_\_\_ you best, and desires only your \_\_\_\_\_. p. 119

## Chapter 7: Choose to Grow

1. The important thing is to view the \_\_\_\_\_ of our particular life situation as a \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_. p. 123
2. Some of us may not be \_\_\_\_\_ spiritually simply because we don’t put into \_\_\_\_\_ the things that God \_\_\_\_\_ us. p. 123
3. Often in difficult times we pray for \_\_\_\_\_ instead of asking God to help us \_\_\_\_\_ the very qualities He seeks to \_\_\_\_\_ in us. p. 124
4. Jesus both \_\_\_\_\_ us and encouraged us that if we make it our practice to faithfully \_\_\_\_\_ ourselves to the things He teaches us, then we will have a solid \_\_\_\_\_ when difficulties come. If not, we will be \_\_\_\_\_. p. 124
5. For some of us it may mean learning to keep our \_\_\_\_\_ shut tight until we’ve had a chance to \_\_\_\_\_ and to \_\_\_\_\_ about how we want to respond. p. 126

6. We can either resign ourselves to \_\_\_\_\_ through a difficult marriage, call it \_\_\_\_\_, and find someone else so that it's \_\_\_\_\_ once again, or we can \_\_\_\_\_ to grow through the \_\_\_\_\_ we encounter.

7. Suffering itself doesn't \_\_\_\_\_ growth. We must \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ it to teach us its lessons. p. 127

8. In order to \_\_\_\_\_ through suffering, we must train ourselves to live with the conviction that our biggest \_\_\_\_\_ is God's reality, and our truest \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_. p. 127

9. Something good is happening \_\_\_\_\_ while we are in the difficulty. p. 128

10. God wants us to choose the \_\_\_\_\_ of being conformed to the image of \_\_\_\_\_. If we do, we will allow Him to use \_\_\_\_\_ and everything we experience to achieve that \_\_\_\_\_, even a \_\_\_\_\_. p. 128

11. In order to be \_\_\_\_\_ to act right when our spouse acts wrong, we will need to learn \_\_\_\_\_ and to see the \_\_\_\_\_, what God might be using in our difficult marriage to \_\_\_\_\_ us. p. 129

12. God doesn't command us to be committed to staying \_\_\_\_\_; that is too \_\_\_\_\_. He requires us to be committed to \_\_\_\_\_ our spouse. p. 130

13. To love my spouse demands much \_\_\_\_\_ of me than just putting up with a difficult mate or a difficult marriage. To love my husband means I must \_\_\_\_\_ him, attempt to \_\_\_\_\_ him, to actively seek to \_\_\_\_\_ him and to live my life in ways that are in \_\_\_\_\_ best interests....p. 130

14. Sometimes training in godliness \_\_\_\_\_ and it isn't \_\_\_\_\_. p. 131

15. How do we train ourselves to become more like God? One of the \_\_\_\_\_ steps would be to learn what \_\_\_\_\_ is like and then \_\_\_\_\_ Him. p. 131

16. In training ourselves to be \_\_\_\_\_ we must understand that we do it \_\_\_\_\_ step at a time through faithful \_\_\_\_\_ in the day to day situations God \_\_\_\_\_ for us. p. 132

17. The more fully I am able to grasp my own \_\_\_\_\_, the more I learn \_\_\_\_\_, and the pride that keeps my lips locked and heart \_\_\_\_\_ begins to lose its grip. p. 132

18. Our \_\_\_\_\_ is paramount to this transformation process, because we naturally do not \_\_\_\_\_ as God thinks. p. 133

19. Part of discipleship training is confronting the head-heart split that \_\_\_\_\_ of us have, whereby we have \_\_\_\_\_ knowledge but lack \_\_\_\_\_. p. 133

20. If we train ourselves to see our present difficulties as opportunities for \_\_\_\_\_ and practice in spiritual \_\_\_\_\_, then it's likely we won't be so \_\_\_\_\_ when our spouse isn't just what we want him to be. p. 135
21. We will never be able to act right when our spouse acts wrong if our \_\_\_\_\_ is not centered in God and what He \_\_\_\_\_. p. 135
22. The next time you face a difficulty in your marriage, begin to train your heart and \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ to God, just as Jesus did. p. 136
23. Some of the things we may need to learn when our spouse acts wrong are \_\_\_\_\_, forbearance, \_\_\_\_\_, how to speak the \_\_\_\_\_ in love, how to bless our \_\_\_\_\_, and how to pray for those who \_\_\_\_\_ us. p. 137
24. To become a disciple we must grow in our confidence in what He says to the \_\_\_\_\_ where is begins to \_\_\_\_\_. p. 137
25. How to act right when our spouse acts wrong will require us to choose to \_\_\_\_\_, to make every effort through training and \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ like Jesus, to center our \_\_\_\_\_ in God and develop the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ \_\_\_\_\_. p. 138
26. The times that I am happiest and most \_\_\_\_\_ in my marriage are the times when I am \_\_\_\_\_ on drawing meaning and fulfillment from becoming a better wife rather than from \_\_\_\_\_ a better husband. p. 138 (I obviously changed a couple words here.)
27. When our spouse acts wrong, God will use the resulting \_\_\_\_\_, whether big or small, to teach us, to train us, to \_\_\_\_\_ us, and to \_\_\_\_\_ us in order that we might become a more perfect \_\_\_\_\_ of Him to the work and to our \_\_\_\_\_. p. 139

## Chapter 8: Choose to Love

1. God tells us that love isn't a \_\_\_\_\_ or an ecstatic \_\_\_\_\_ experience...p. 142
2. For the Christian, loving our spouse is not \_\_\_\_\_. We are commanded to \_\_\_\_\_ what this kind of love looks like and how to \_\_\_\_\_ it through our \_\_\_\_\_. p. 143
3. God may put us or \_\_\_\_\_ us in difficult situations so that we might learn how to \_\_\_\_\_ better or to grasp more fully what \_\_\_\_\_ love looks like. p. 144
4. Our emotions are so powerful they can often \_\_\_\_\_ us into thinking that we are acting in another person's \_\_\_\_\_ when our real motives are more \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_. p. 147
5. The Scriptures also tell us that love's purpose is to \_\_\_\_\_ another person up to his or her God-given \_\_\_\_\_. p. 147
6. God's Word never endorses sinful behavior in order to teach anyone a \_\_\_\_\_. p. 148

7. Genuine love is always accompanied by \_\_\_\_\_ . p. 149
8. When we understand that genuine love is best defined as loving \_\_\_\_\_ motivated by the express \_\_\_\_\_ of doing whatever is in the \_\_\_\_\_ interests of our spouse, then we show love in \_\_\_\_\_ ways, depending upon what our spouse \_\_\_\_\_. p. 150
9. We must understand the nature and purpose of genuine love. It is \_\_\_\_\_, not \_\_\_\_\_. p.150
10. A loving heart has more to do with our \_\_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_\_ than any specific emotional feeling. p. 151
11. Paul tells us that first we need to understand that \_\_\_\_\_ is always the \_\_\_\_\_. p. 152
12. When we are wrapped up in self-pity, we forget that love is a \_\_\_\_\_ and that good (growth and \_\_\_\_\_, not to mention \_\_\_\_\_) comes from \_\_\_\_\_ God and choosing His ways of \_\_\_\_\_ during hardship. p. 152
13. Loving actions are an \_\_\_\_\_ response to an inward heart \_\_\_\_\_ of servanthood and \_\_\_\_\_. p. 152
14. When our desires are God-centered—in other words, to love and \_\_\_\_\_ Him, our love is \_\_\_\_\_, not hypocritical, even if \_\_\_\_\_ emotions are \_\_\_\_\_. p. 153
15. We can love because we \_\_\_\_\_ loved. Perhaps not by our spouse, but we are fully and \_\_\_\_\_ loved by God. Therefore, He \_\_\_\_\_ us, empowers us, and equips us to \_\_\_\_\_. p. 154
16. It is never wise or godly to \_\_\_\_\_ our self in order to give our spouse more \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_. p. 155
17. The mark of true love is \_\_\_\_\_ our self for our spouse's \_\_\_\_\_. p. 156
18. If we view the marriage relationship as an opportunity to \_\_\_\_\_ in love, it doesn't matter how \_\_\_\_\_ the person is whom we are \_\_\_\_\_ to love, it doesn't matter even whether that love is ever \_\_\_\_\_. We can still excel at \_\_\_\_\_. We can still say, "Like it or not, I'm going to \_\_\_\_\_ you like nobody ever has. p. 157
19. Love encompasses a loving \_\_\_\_\_ demonstrated by loving \_\_\_\_\_ and bathed in an attitude of \_\_\_\_\_. p. 157
20. You can't use me if I am hard-hearted, stiff-necked, and filled with \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. p. 158

## Chapter 9: Gifts of Love

1. Don't expect our spouse to respond to us in certain ways, like with \_\_\_\_\_ or repentance, on order for us to maintain our \_\_\_\_\_ posture. p. 160

2. In order to love, we must learn how to \_\_\_\_\_ one another's differences and \_\_\_\_\_. Mature love involves a full \_\_\_\_\_ of another person, including his or her \_\_\_\_\_ areas. p. 161
3. Our challenge becomes learning to love and to accept the person we have \_\_\_\_\_, not the \_\_\_\_\_ we thought he was or some \_\_\_\_\_ version of the person. p. 161
4. True acceptance is merely understanding reality—that we are \_\_\_\_\_ creatures in \_\_\_\_\_ and that God isn't \_\_\_\_\_ with us yet. p. 162
5. We must learn to be emotionally \_\_\_\_\_ with our spouse the he is \_\_\_\_\_, all the while still asking God to \_\_\_\_\_ him. p. 165
6. It is important to remember that Peter instructs wives not to be \_\_\_\_\_ toward their \_\_\_\_\_ husbands. Our \_\_\_\_\_ is always more influential than our \_\_\_\_\_. p. 167
7. There are times that, in order to act right when our spouse acts wrong, we must speak the \_\_\_\_\_, but always in \_\_\_\_\_. p. 167
8. Contempt is the \_\_\_\_\_ that will erode feelings of goodwill in a marriage more \_\_\_\_\_ than bad \_\_\_\_\_. p. 169
9. Satan's intention is not only to \_\_\_\_\_ you but also to \_\_\_\_\_ you with evil's poison. p. 170
10. We should be kind toward others because we want to be like \_\_\_\_\_, not because they \_\_\_\_\_ our kindness. p. 170
11. Ask God to help you have His perspective and His \_\_\_\_\_ toward your spouse. p. 171
12. Forgiveness is the oil that smoothes over the \_\_\_\_\_ spots as two people struggle to become what God \_\_\_\_\_ them to be. When we keep \_\_\_\_\_ on marital wrongs, love is \_\_\_\_\_. p. 173
13. Forgiveness doesn't \_\_\_\_\_ the hurt or the consequences sin has inflicted upon its victim. Sometimes the \_\_\_\_\_ consequences are worse than the \_\_\_\_\_. p. 173
14. Extending the gift of forgiveness doesn't guarantee an absence of \_\_\_\_\_. p. 174
15. Neither does it imply an automatic \_\_\_\_\_ of the relationship. p. 174
16. Forgiveness means \_\_\_\_\_ not to cling to our right for \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_. We cancel the \_\_\_\_\_ the offender owes us. p. 174
17. Reconciliation of the relationship at times depends upon the genuine \_\_\_\_\_ of the one who has \_\_\_\_\_. p. 174
18. God teaches us how to become more like Jesus through the process of being \_\_\_\_\_. For how can we ever learn how to \_\_\_\_\_ if no one ever \_\_\_\_\_ us? p. 175

19. The kinds of situations that warrant this type of drastic action are domestic violence, chronic \_\_\_\_\_, and drug, \_\_\_\_\_, or other dangerous \_\_\_\_\_ that \_\_\_\_\_ impact home life. p. 178

20. The gift of \_\_\_\_\_, sometimes painful consequences, is at times the most \_\_\_\_\_ thing you can give your spouse in order to get him to stop, even if for just a minute, and \_\_\_\_\_ his behavior. p. 180

21. List the six gifts that this chapter covers: (find in the bold print)

- A.
- B.
- C.
- D.
- E.
- F.

### Chapter 10: The Blessings of Acting Right

1. The good news is that wonderful \_\_\_\_\_ for our hard work \_\_\_\_\_ us. p. 184

2. It is crucial to their long-term well-being that they conduct themselves in such a way so that they will have no \_\_\_\_\_. p. 185

3. Our sin never affects just \_\_\_\_\_. The most bitter of all pain is not the pain of an unhappy or even a \_\_\_\_\_ marriage; it is the pain we bring upon our \_\_\_\_\_ by the sinful or \_\_\_\_\_ mistakes we have made. Sin is \_\_\_\_\_ but often leaves \_\_\_\_\_, and some remain for a \_\_\_\_\_. p. 185

4. The way we \_\_\_\_\_ when someone is acting wrong says a lot about who \_\_\_\_\_ are or who we are \_\_\_\_\_. Remember, actions flow out of what is in our \_\_\_\_\_. p. 186

5. Marriage helps us to develop the character of \_\_\_\_\_ Himself as we stick with our spouses through the \_\_\_\_\_ times and the bad. p. 188

6. Personal and spiritual \_\_\_\_\_ comes from learning how to act right when our spouse acts wrong. p. 188

7. Acting right taught her that God's Word has \_\_\_\_\_, that truth is \_\_\_\_\_ than lies, and that evil is indeed overcome with \_\_\_\_\_. p. 189

8. Choosing to act right doesn't \_\_\_\_\_ that your marriage will stay \_\_\_\_\_, but the possibility becomes \_\_\_\_\_ likely. p. 191

9. Even if you do all you can and your marriage fails, your children will receive \_\_\_\_\_ and life-changing lessons as they watch \_\_\_\_\_ at work in your life and \_\_\_\_\_. p. 191

10. The person who stands for Christ in the midst of difficulty \_\_\_\_\_ others who want to stand but find themselves wavering or \_\_\_\_\_. p. 193
11. We can be a \_\_\_\_\_ to others by demonstrating the \_\_\_\_\_ of a God-centered life in the mist of our own \_\_\_\_\_. p. 193
12. How you respond when life is difficult affects and \_\_\_\_\_ everyone around you. p. 194
13. We forget that the absolute \_\_\_\_\_ life we could possibly live is not one in which we are focused on becoming \_\_\_\_\_ and fulfilled, but on \_\_\_\_\_. p. 195
14. As we live to please God, we will be \_\_\_\_\_ and fulfilled. p. 196
15. God is most glorified in us when we are most \_\_\_\_\_ in Him. p. 196
16. Discipleship costs, but remember: “The cost of \_\_\_\_\_ is far greater. p. 196
17. We can’t control everything that happens to us, but we can control \_\_\_\_\_ we will \_\_\_\_\_ with it. p. 197
18. The best blessing of acting right is that someday we, too, will be able to say, “I no longer remember the \_\_\_\_\_, but I have won the \_\_\_\_\_. I have had a life well lived and have heard the precious words “\_\_\_\_\_” from my \_\_\_\_\_. p. 198

***Take a few minutes to look over this book and summarize how God has used it in your life. Write down how He is changing your attitude and behavior through the truths you have been reading.***