

Redemptive **DIVORCE**

A BIBLICAL PROCESS THAT OFFERS

Guidance for the Suffering Partner,
Healing for the Offending Spouse,
and the Best Catalyst for Restoration

MARK W. GAITHER

Foreword by Charles R. Swindoll

A PDF COMPANION TO THE AUDIOBOOK

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Appendix I

Repentance Inventory

Sometimes people merely pretend to repent in order to avoid loss or to retain control. And they can appear authentically sorrowful, only to return to their destructive behavior later. An obvious change in attitude and behavior always accompanies repentance. Have you observed the six signs of genuine repentance in your partner?

1. Repentant people are willing to confess all their sins, not just the sins that got them into trouble. Has your spouse demonstrated a desire to be completely honest about his or her behavior? Describe the response you would hope to see from your spouse.

2. Repentant people face the pain their sin has caused others. Has your spouse allowed you to express the intensity of emotions you feel—anger, hurt, sorrow, and disappointment—without trying to justify, minimize, or shift blame? Describe how your spouse reacts to your emotions.

3. Repentant people ask forgiveness from those they hurt. Has your spouse asked your forgiveness? Do you believe his or her sorrow is genuine? Does your spouse pressure you to say, “I forgive you”? Does

he or she expect you to “get over it” without sufficient time to heal? Describe the attitude you hope to see in your spouse concerning his or her destructive behavior.

4. Repentant people remain accountable to a small group of mature Christians. What has your spouse done to address any issues that may have contributed to his or her destructive choices? What is your partner doing to avoid a relapse and to grow stronger as a God-honoring person?

5. Repentant people accept their limitations. Does your spouse resent your need for reassurance? Does he or she seem to understand the need for the rebuilding of trust over time? How does your partner respond to your request that he or she observe certain restrictions?

6. Repentant people are faithful to the daily tasks God has given them. Is your spouse putting forth good effort to fulfill his or her duties at work and at home? Is your partner moving forward in life with humility, or do you sense that he or she merely wants to get things back to normal as quickly as possible?

Appendix 2

Preparing to Live Apart

While being reviled, He did not revile in return; while suffering, He uttered no threats, but kept entrusting Himself to Him who judges righteously.

—1 Peter 2:23

Shelter: Describe what living arrangement would best suit you and your children for the next several weeks. Be as specific as you can.

Where do you think you could live if your spouse refuses to move out?

Security: Describe the financial arrangements you would most favor during separation. This should include provision for living expenses, continued health care, protection of your credit rating, and so on.

What is the most likely means of financial support for you and your children during separation should the court *not* award temporary support?

Stability: Describe how the new living and financial arrangements would provide greater *practical* stability for the children and yourself than continued cohabitation.

How have your children and you suffered physically as a result of your spouse's destructive behavior?

Sanity: Describe how the new living and financial arrangements would provide greater *emotional* stability for the children and yourself than continued cohabitation.

What testimony or official records demonstrate how your children or you have been negatively impacted by your spouse's destructive behavior?

Appendix 3

Monthly Household Expenses

Fixed Monthly Expenses	
Mortgage or rent	
Homeowners' association dues	
Childcare	
Health insurance	
Auto insurance	
Other insurance	
Auto loan payments	
Credit card payments	
Other loan payments	
Variable Monthly Expenses	
Groceries	
Utilities	
Telephone	
Electric/Gas	

Variable Monthly Expenses	
Cable/Internet	
Water/Sewer/Garbage	
Gasoline	
Clothing	
Medical/Dental (out-of-pocket)	
Healthy activities for the children	
Miscellaneous (attach examples)	
Other Expenses (per year, divided by 12)	
Education (tuition, fees, books, etc.)	
Taxes	
Auto repair/maintenance	
Home repair/maintenance	
Home insurance	
Total Monthly Expenses	

Appendix 4

Documents Checklist

Legal Documents

- ☐ Marriage license
- ☐ Prenuptial or postnuptial agreements
- ☐ Birth certificates or adoption documents for each child for whom you or your spouse are responsible
- ☐ Social Security numbers for each member of the household
- ☐ Divorce decree from former marriage

Financial Documents

- ☐ Account statements for bank accounts, loans, IRAs, stocks, bonds, mutual funds, and other investments
- ☐ The most recent salary check stubs
- ☐ Tax returns for the past five years
- ☐ The most recent real estate tax bills
- ☐ Life insurance policies

- ☐ Loan documents either of you have signed
- ☐ Wills, living trusts, and other estate-planning documents
- ☐ Credit report from Equifax, Experian, and TransUnion for you and your spouse

Appendix 5

Preparing to Respond

If your brother sins, go and show him his fault in private; if he listens to you, you have won your brother. But if he does not listen to you, take one or two more with you, so that by the mouth of two or three witnesses every fact may be confirmed. If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.

—Matthew 18:15–17

What behavior on the part of your spouse has compromised your marriage?

Describe the change in your spouse's behavior that would demonstrate genuine repentance. Be specific.

What must he or she *stop* doing? What should he or she *start* doing?

If your spouse were to repent and then affirm his or her desire to restore your marriage, what can he or she do to regain your trust?

What program or organization might encourage your mate to remain faithful to the restoration process and provide you with reasonable assurance of progress?

What accountability are you going to remain in as you work through the process of this divorce?

Appendix 6

Priorities for Negotiating the Settlement

Item	Nonnegotiable	Of great importance	Of little importance
Language of the Divorce			
Fault divorce	✓		
Description of grounds	✓		
Custody or conservatorship of the children, including the following <i>exclusive</i> rights:			
The right to establish the primary residence of the children within the current state			
The right to establish the primary residence of the children across state lines			
The right to consent to medical, surgical, and dental treatment involving invasive procedures			

Item	Nonnegotiable	Of great importance	Of little importance
The right to consent to psychiatric and psychological treatment			
The right to consent to travel across state lines and abroad			
The right to receive and give receipt for periodic payments for support and to manage these funds			
The right to represent the children in legal action and to make other substantial legal decisions			
The right to consent to marriage and to enlistment in the armed forces of the United States			
The right to make decisions concerning the children's education			
The right to the services and earnings of the children			
The right to manage the estates of the children			
Residence of the Children			
During the week:			
On weekends:			
On holidays:			

Item	Nonnegotiable	Of great importance	Of little importance
Visitation with the Children			
Unsupervised visits:			
Supervised visits (describe limitations):			
During the week:			
On weekends:			
On holidays:			
Monetary Support			
For the spouse			
For the children			
Division of Assets (List only nonnegotiable assets)			
Division of Debt (List only nonnegotiable debt)			

Suggested Resources

Alsdurf, James and Phyllis Alsdurf, *Battered into Submission* (Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 1989).

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Dobson, James C., *Love Must Be Tough: New Hope for Families in Crisis* (Dallas: Word, 1996).

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