

MARRIAGES MATTER

MALACHI 2:10-16



GOD DESIRES UNITY AND FAITHFULNESS IN MARRIAGE

GOD CHARGES THE PEOPLE WITH UNFAITHFULNESS! (vs 10)

GOD SUPPLIES THE EVIDENCE FOR THIS CHARGE (vs 11-16a)

- The reality of forbidden marriages (vs 11-12)
- The reality of breaking covenant through divorce (vs 13-16a)

GOD WRAPS UP WITH A RENEWED CALL TO FAITHFULNESS (VS 16B)



MALACHI 2:10-16

¹⁰ “Do we not all have **one father**? Has not **one God** created us? Why do we deal **treacherously** each against his brother so as to profane the covenant of our fathers? ¹¹ Judah has dealt **treacherously**, and an abomination has been committed in Israel and in Jerusalem; for Judah has profaned the sanctuary of the LORD which He loves and has married the daughter of a foreign god. ¹² As for the man who does this, may the LORD cut off from the tents of Jacob *everyone* who awakes and answers, or who presents an offering to the LORD of hosts.

CHOOSE WHO YOU MARRY

GOD SAYS NOT TO MARRY A FOREIGNER

NOT ABOUT INTERRACIAL MARRIAGES

IT IS ABOUT BEING “UNEQUALLY YOKED”

IT IS ABOUT BEING LED ASTRAY (easier to pull someone down than to pull someone up)

NO MISSIONARY DATING

CHOOSE WHO YOU MARRY

AS A BELIEVER

1. JESUS IS THE WAY TO ETERNAL LIFE
2. JESUS IS THE TRUTH
3. JESUS ANSWERS PRAYER
4. CHURCH IS IMPORTANT
5. GOD WANTS YOU TO GIVE

AS AN UNBELIEVER

1. THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS LIFE AFTER DEATH
2. THERE IS NO ABSOLUTE TRUTH
3. PRAYER IS A CRUTCH
4. CHURCH IS A WASTE OF TIME
5. KEEP ALL YOU GET

MALACHI 2:10-16

¹³ “This is another thing you do: you cover the altar of the LORD with tears, with weeping and with groaning, because He no longer regards the offering or accepts *it with favor* from your hand. ¹⁴ Yet you say, ‘For what reason?’ Because the LORD has been a witness between you and the **wife of your youth**, against whom you have dealt **treacherously**, though she is your **companion** and your wife by covenant.

MALACHI 2:10-16

¹⁵ But not one has done so who has a remnant of the Spirit. And what did *that one do* while he was seeking a godly offspring? Take heed then to your spirit and **let no one deal treacherously** against the wife of your youth. ¹⁶ For **I hate divorce,**” says the LORD, the God of Israel, “and him who covers his garment with wrong,” says the LORD of hosts. “So, take heed to your spirit, that you do not deal **treacherously.**”

KEEP YOUR COVENANT

MARRIAGE IS A COVENANT

GOD DESIRES THAT WE KEEP OUR COVENANTS

COVENANTS ARE NOT ALWAYS EASY TO MAINTAIN



GOD HATES DIVORCE

GOD DOES NOT SAY “I HATE THE DIVORCEE...”

DIVORCE DOES NOT MEAN “UNCLEAN”

DIVORCE IS NOT THE “UNFORGIVABLE SIN”

THERE ARE SITUATIONS WHERE GOD DOES ALLOW FOR
SEPERATION/DIVORCE

GOD DESIRES HEALTHY MARRIAGES

A HEALTHY MARRIAGE IS DESIGNED TO BE A PICTURE OF
CHRIST AND THE CHURCH

A HEALTHY MARRIAGE IS GOD'S DESIGN FOR PRODUCING
GODLY CHILDREN

WHAT CAN WE DO TO ENCOURAGE HEALTHY MARRIAGES?

START WITH TRAINING OUR CHILDREN/GRANDCHILDREN

WHAT SHOULD THEY LOOK FOR IN A POTENTIAL LIFE PARTNER.

- Non-negotiables
- Highly desired
- Deal breakers

WHAT CAN WE DO TO ENCOURAGE HEALTHY MARRIAGES?

PROVIDE COUNSELING FOR OUR YOUNG COUPLES

- Premarital
- During the first few years of marriage
- At any point in time when they are struggling

ENCOURAGE MENTOR COUPLES TO COME ALONGSIDE OTHER COUPLES WHO NEED ENCOURAGEMENT




WHAT CAN WE DO TO ENCOURAGE HEALTHY MARRIAGES?

PROMOTE PRO-ACTIVE HEALTHY HABITS IN MARRIAGE

MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT CONFERENCES

- Tools for healthy communication
- The priority of love and respect
- Learning to disagree

NEVER STOP DATING

- Date nights
 - Weekends to focus on your marriage
 - Anniversary times to learn about each other
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NEVER FORGET THAT GOD DESIRES YOUR MARRIAGE TO
REFLECT JESUS AND HIS BRIDE, THE CHURCH!

GOD DESIRES FAITHFULNESS IN ALL AREAS OF OUR LIVES!