

"Be On Your Guard"  
Malachi 2:10-16

*I. Interrogation: Answer Questions About Father, Creation, and Spiritual Plunge (2:10)*

<sup>10</sup> **Do we not all have one Father? Did not one God create us?**

In Malachi's time they were not debating the earthly, natural, demonic wisdom of evolution. They were not like our public schools, desperately searching for any option—however nonsensical—that allows them to take God out of the equation of origins.

**Why do we profane the covenant of our ancestors by being unfaithful to one another?**

*Having answered Malachi's 3 questions, now let's explore the link between the state of one's marriage and the state of one's worship.*

*II. Situation: Confess Marital Unfaithfulness, Which Makes God Reject Worship (2:11-14)*

<sup>11</sup> **Judah has been unfaithful. A detestable thing has been committed in Israel and in Jerusalem: Judah has desecrated the sanctuary the LORD loves by marrying women who worship a foreign god.**

1 Kings 11:1-8

Ezra 9:1a, 2a, 11b, 12a, 14; 10:2b

2 Cor 6:14-18

<sup>12</sup> **As for the man who does this, whoever he may be, may the LORD remove him from the tents of Jacob—even though he brings an offering to the LORD Almighty.** <sup>13</sup> **Another thing you do: You flood the LORD's altar with tears. You weep and wail because he no longer looks with favor on your offerings or accepts them with pleasure from your hands.**

Israel believed in their own worship; they loved it. But, the Lord God hated it. Isaiah 1:11-16a

<sup>14</sup> **You ask, "Why?" It is because the LORD is the witness between you and the wife of your youth. You have been unfaithful to her, though she is your partner, the wife of your marriage covenant.** Joel 2:12-14; 2 Cor 7:10

*Note well, marriage and worship are joined in the closest way—and note well the next two questions.*

*III. Interrogation: Answer Questions About What God Made and What God Seeks (2:15a)*

<sup>15</sup> **Has not the one God made you? You belong to him in body and spirit. And what does the one God seek? Godly offspring.** John 4 3 John 4

This is one reason homosexual "marriage" is wrong. It cannot produce what God seeks from a marriage: kids.

Application: Thank the Lord God that He created you, that He owns you, and that He seeks godly children from the marriage union.

*Questions, confessions, worship—we covered all of that. Now let's explore the one true command in this passage, stated twice.*

*IV. Injunction: Guard Against Unfaithfulness (2:15b-16)*

**So be on your guard do not be unfaithful to the wife of your youth** <sup>16</sup> **"The man who hates and divorces his wife," says the LORD, the God of Israel, "does violence** Proverbs 4:23

God's diagnosis is that a husband who pursues an unjustified divorce—she did not commit adultery—against his wife has engaged in felony domestic violence. He is a wife-beater, even if he never physically assaulted her.

**to the one he should protect," says the LORD Almighty. So be on your guard, and do not be unfaithful.**

The Big Story—Looking back, we, like Malachi's original audience, have one God we have disobeyed, one covenant we have broken, five questions we must answer, and one command to follow as we consider marriage and worship, all the while looking ahead to the marriage supper of the Lamb.

The Big Idea (Sermon-in-a-Sentence)—Answer the questions and obey the commands before marital unfaithfulness destroys you(r worship).

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