

Malachi 2:10-16

A Contemporary Awakening from an Ancient Prophet
“Purity in Our Marriages”

Introduction: Continue to look at the prophecy of Malachi written in the late 5th Century B.C. to Jewish exiles returned to Jerusalem.

- ✓ Had returned to restore the city and the temple in an attempt to regain national pride
- ✓ Malachi reminding them that it would take more than a physical rebuild-spiritual transformation was necessary
- ✓ First, a call to sincere worship

NOTE: *Had become sloppy in their approach to God, bringing blemished sacrifices and thus lost the joy and reward of worship. It was a call to restore sincerity.*

- ✓ Second issue is marriage (communication-usually blame the other one)

ILLUSTRATION

Husband Concerned About Wife's Hearing

A concerned husband goes to see the family doctor: "I think my wife is deaf. She never hears me the first time I say something. In fact, I often have to repeat things over and over again." "Well," the doctor replies, "go home tonight, stand about 15 feet from her, and say something. If she doesn't reply, move about five feet closer and say it again. Keep doing this so we can get an idea of the severity of her deafness. "Sure enough, the husband goes home, and he does exactly as instructed. He stands about 15 feet from his wife, who is standing in the kitchen, chopping some vegetables. "Honey, what's for dinner?" He gets no response, so he moves about five feet closer and asks again.

"Honey, what's for dinner?" No reply. He moves five feet closer, and still no reply.

He gets fed up and moves right behind her—about an inch away—and asks one final time, "Honey, what's for dinner?" She replies, "For the fourth time, vegetable stew!"

Submitted by Aaron Goerner, Utica, New York

Specific Issue-A Call to Purity in their Marriages

Issue was 2-Fold

1. Inter-marrying (strictly forbidden) because of being God's covenant people

Judah has dealt treacherously, And an abomination has been committed in Israel and in Jerusalem, For Judah has profaned the LORD's holy institution which He loves: He has married the daughter of a foreign god. Malachi 2:11 NKJV

2. Divorce

Yet you say, "For what reason?" Because the LORD has been witness Between you and the wife of your youth, With whom you have dealt treacherously; Yet she is your companion And your wife by covenant. 15 But did He not make them one, Having a remnant of the Spirit? And why one? He seeks godly offspring. Therefore take heed to your spirit, And let none deal treacherously with the wife of his youth. 16 "For the LORD God of Israel says That He hates divorce, For it covers one's garment with violence," Says the LORD of hosts. "Therefore take heed to your spirit, That you do not deal treacherously." Malachi 2:14-16 NKJV

Summarized: It was all about purity in marriage.

IMPORTANT: Must be careful NOT to see only the marital prohibitions of scripture—the “do not’s.” It will create legalism, condemnation, and do nothing to foster healthy, pure marriages. We need rather, to focus on the “why” of the spiritual admonition to have purity in our marriages.

We already understand what impurity looks like:

- ✓ Marital infidelity
- ✓ Divorce
- ✓ Degrading use of and addiction to pornography
- ✓ Failure to mutually submit, reverence, and love
- ✓ Verbal, emotional, and physical abuse
- ✓ Many other acts of attributes of impurity

These ARE NOT the focus and are beyond the scope of the message

Instead—we focus on why purity in our marriages is so crucial—Reasons are Three

I. Purity in Marriage Honors God and His Word

Have we not all one Father? Has not one God created us? Why do we deal treacherously with one another by profaning the covenant of the fathers? Malachi 2:10 NKJV

NOTE: First and foremost, marital impurity for the Jews was an affront on the covenant (Word) of God.

Marital Purity Honors God in at Least 3 Ways

A. Acknowledges His special call on the lives of His people

1. Israel’s unique call:

Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine. 6 And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel." Exodus 19:5-6 NKJV

(At foot of Sinai)

2. Moses receives the law:

Then he said, "Who made you a prince and a judge over us? Do you intend to kill me as you killed the Egyptian?" So Moses feared and said, "Surely this thing is known!" 15 When Pharaoh heard of this matter, he sought to kill Moses. But Moses fled from the face of Pharaoh and dwelt in the land of Midian; and he sat down by a well. 16 Now the priest of Midian had seven daughters. And they came and drew water, and they filled the troughs to water their father's flock. 17 Then the shepherds came and drove them away; but Moses stood up and helped them, and watered their flock. Exodus 2:14-17 NKJV

3. This unique relational fidelity was part of the call placed on God's chosen people-His treasured possession
4. When we live in our marriages in purity, we are honoring God by acknowledging that special call (redeemed, the royal priesthood)

- B. Acknowledges His infinite wisdom in the establishment of the marriage institution

Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. Genesis 2:24 NKJV

1. Cleaving of body, soul, spirit that makes one
2. Importance of tending to all three-a gluing together
3. When we are impure-we challenge the wisdom of God

- C. Acknowledges the divine ideal of marriage as a model of God's faithful love to us

1. God's love is undying

But Zion said, "The LORD has forsaken me, And my Lord has forgotten me." 15 "Can a woman forget her nursing child, And not have compassion on the son of her womb?"

Surely they may forget, Yet I will not forget you. 16 See, I have inscribed you on the palms of My hands; Your walls are continually before Me. Isaiah 49:14-16 NKJV

The LORD has appeared of old to me, saying: "Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love; Therefore with lovingkindness I have drawn you. Jeremiah 31:3 NKJV

2. Christ's love is the same

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, 26 that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, 27 that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.
Ephesians 5:25-27 NKJV

Honoring God with purity in marriage (acknowledging His call, wisdom, idea)

II. Purity in Marriage Sanctifies Humanity and Maintains Human Dignity

Have we not all one Father? Has not one God created us? Why do we deal treacherously with one another By profaning the covenant of the fathers?
Malachi 2:10 NKJV

- A. Malachi emphasizes the unique nature of humanity
 - 1. Same Father-God
 - 2. Same Image-Created in the image and likeness of God “imago dei”
 - 3. What sets humanity apart
- B. Purity in marriage recognizes the uniqueness of one another and sees one another as brother, sister, and fellow members of God’s family
 - 1. Paul’s admonition

And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him. 18 Wives, submit to your own husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. 19 Husbands, love your wives and do not be bitter toward them.
Colossians 3:17-19 NKJV

Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. Ephesians 5:22-23 NKJV

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, Ephesians 5:25 NKJV

- 2. See no one after the flesh

Therefore, from now on, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, 2 Corinthians 5:16 NKJV

That is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation. 2 Corinthians 5:19 NKJV

- C. When we walk in purity in our marriages-we are declaring the sanctity and dignity of one another (way we talk, touch, listen, treat one another, complete dignity)
 - 1. Not an object

2. Not an animal or different species
3. A child of God-created in the image and likeness of God
4. Called to bring reconciliation

Sanctifies Humanity/Maintains Human Dignity

III. Purity in Marriage Preserves Society

But did He not make them one, Having a remnant of the Spirit? And why one? He seeks godly offspring. Therefore take heed to your spirit, And let none deal treacherously with the wife of his youth. Malachi 2:15 NKJV

- A. In order for society to be preserved, a godly generation must emerge
 1. This is clear in the creation narrative

Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." 27 So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. 28 Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth." Genesis 1:26-28 NKJV

2. Concern of God through Malachi-impurity in marriage could contaminate hopes for a godly seed

“He seeks godly offspring”

3. It is more than pro-creation (nurture, discipline, training, discipleship)
 - B. As divorce rates grow-so does the ungodliness of secular society
 1. Nurturing homes, godly atmosphere gone
 2. Godly seed is weakened in society
 - C. As we maintain purity-godly seed emerges-kingdom expanded

Conclusion:

Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge. Hebrews 13:4 NKJV

Purity must be guarded

Honors God, Sanctifies Humanity, Preserves Society)

Fireproof Video

Fireproof Clip

"Fireproof": Being Christ-like to Our Spouses

Fireproof is the story of Caleb and Kathryn Holt, a couple that is considering divorce after seven years of marriage. In one last attempt to salvage their marriage, Caleb's father asks Caleb to try a 40-day experiment he calls The Love Dare. Caleb agrees. In this scene Caleb (Kirk Cameron), a firefighter, has reached the half-way mark of the experiment. He calls his father (Harris Malcom) to talk about how things are going. Caleb explains that the night before, he had prepared a candle-light dinner for his wife. Her only response was, "I don't love you." Perceiving that his son is about to give up on The Love Dare, Caleb's father comes to visit, and the two decide to go for a walk. Along the way, they come to a clearing in an area where church camp is held. There's a wooden cross and some tree stumps for seating. With Caleb seated on a stump, his father questions him: "Caleb, if I were to ask you why you were so frustrated with Kathryn, what would you say?" Seated with his head in his hands, Caleb looks up and replies, "She's stubborn. She makes everything difficult for me. She's ungrateful. She's constantly griping about something." "Has she thanked you for anything you've done the last twenty days?" his father asks. "No!" Caleb says. "And you would think that after I wash the car—after I've changed the oil, done the dishes, cleaned the house—that she would try to show me a little bit of gratitude. But she doesn't!" As Caleb continues to vent, his father begins to walk slowly toward the cross. "In fact, when I come home, she makes me feel like I'm an enemy. I'm not even welcome in my own home, Dad. That is what really ticks me off! For the last three weeks I've bent over backwards for her. I've tried to demonstrate that I still care about this relationship. I bought her flowers, which she threw away. I have taken her insults and her sarcasm, but last night was it. I made dinner for her. I did everything I could to demonstrate that I care about her—to show value for her—and she spit in my face. She does not deserve this, Dad! I'm not doing it anymore! How am I supposed to show love to somebody—over and over and over—who constantly rejects me?" By now, Caleb's father has positioned himself at the cross. Leaning against it, he replies, "That's a good question." As Caleb looks at his father there at the cross, he begins to make the connection his father wants him to make—that what Caleb is doing is Christ-like. "Dad, that's not what I'm doing. "To which his father replies, "Isn't it?"