

## Called to Honor God Malachi 2:1-13

*Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.* Deuteronomy 6:5 (New International Version)

Malachi 2 calls believers to establish limits that express love for God.

- **Limit #1: SET YOUR HEART TO HONOR GOD.**

*"...<sup>2</sup>If you do not listen and if you do not set your hearts to honor my name," says the LORD Almighty, "I will send a curse upon you, and I will curse your blessings. Yes, I have already cursed them, because you have not set your heart to honor me." Malachi 2:1-2 (NIV)*

- "Heart" = mind, will, emotions, the real inner you
- "honor/glory" = weight = honorable, worthy of respect, awesome

*In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.* Matthew 5:16 (English Standard Version)

**Definition:** To "set my heart to honor God's name" = to set my will to wholeheartedly please Him, setting Him above all other goals, desires or loves and, as a result, reflect glory to His Name

*Now set your heart and your soul to seek the LORD your God.* 1 Chronicles 22:19a (New King James Version)

*He died for everyone so that those who receive his new life will no longer live to please themselves. Instead, they will live to please Christ, who died and was raised for them.* 2 Corinthians 5:15 (New Living Translation)

*And it is my prayer that ...<sup>10</sup> ... you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, <sup>11</sup>filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.* Philippians 1:9-11 (ESV)

*But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord.* 1 Peter 3:15a (NIV)

*... for those who honor me I will honor, and those who despise me shall be lightly esteemed.* 1 Samuel 2:30 (ESV)

- **Limit #2: HONOR GOD'S WORD.**

*"Then you will know that I have given you this command, so that my covenant with the priests, the descendants of Levi, will not be broken. <sup>5</sup>In my covenant I promised them life and well-being, and this is what I gave them, so that they might respect me. In those days they did respect and fear me. <sup>6</sup>They taught what was right, not what was wrong. They lived in harmony with me; they not only did what was right themselves, but they also helped many others to stop doing evil. <sup>7</sup>It is the duty of priests to teach the true knowledge of God. People should go to them to learn my will, because they are the messengers of the Lord Almighty. <sup>8</sup>But now you priests have turned away from the right path. Your teaching has led many to do wrong. You have broken the covenant I made with you. <sup>9</sup>So I, in turn, will make the people of Israel despise you because you do not obey my will, and when you teach my people, you do not treat everyone alike." Malachi 2:4-9 (Good News Translation)*

*All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It straightens us out and teaches us to do what is right. <sup>17</sup>It is God's way of preparing us in every way, fully equipped for every good thing God wants us to do.* 2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NLT)

- **Limit #3: PROTECT OTHER BELIEVERS BY THE WAY YOU LIVE.**

*Have we not all one Father? Did not one God create us? Why do we profane the covenant of our fathers by breaking faith with one another? <sup>11</sup>Judah has broken faith. A detestable thing has been committed in Israel and in Jerusalem: Judah has desecrated the sanctuary the LORD loves, by marrying the daughter of a foreign god. <sup>12</sup>As for the man who does this, whoever he may be, may the LORD cut him off from the tents of Jacob—even though he brings offerings to the LORD Almighty.* Malachi 2:10-12 (NIV)

*Or do you [singular] not know that your body [singular] is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you [singular], whom you [singular] have from God? You are not your own, <sup>20</sup>for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.* 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 (ESV)

*Don't you [plural] realize that all of you [plural] together are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God lives in you [plural]? <sup>17</sup>God will bring ruin upon anyone who ruins this temple. For God's temple is holy, and you Christians are that temple.* 1 Corinthians 3:16-17 (NLT)