

A Call to Honor Your Marriage Covenant Malachi 2:13-16

Another thing you do: You flood the LORD's altar with tears. You weep and wail because he no longer pays attention to your offerings or accepts them with pleasure from your hands. ¹⁴You ask, "Why?" It is because the LORD is acting as the witness between you and the wife of your youth, because you have broken faith with her, though she is your partner, the wife of your marriage covenant. ¹⁵Has not the LORD made them one? In flesh and spirit they are his. And why one? Because he was seeking godly offspring. So guard yourself in your spirit, and do not break faith with the wife of your youth. ¹⁶"I hate divorce," says the LORD God of Israel, "and I hate a man's covering himself with violence as well as with his garment," says the LORD Almighty. So guard yourself in your spirit, and do not break faith. Malachi 2:13-16 (New International Version)

- **Truth #1: MARRIAGE IS A COVENANT AGREEMENT.** (2:14)

A covenant = a solemn oath = binding regardless of what the other person does

See Genesis 15 and 17; Exodus 19.

She has abandoned her husband and ignores the covenant she made before God. Proverbs 2:17 (New Living Translation)

- **Truth #2: GOD MAKES A MARRIED COUPLE ONE.** (2:15)

Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. Genesis 2:24 (English Standard Version)

He answered, "Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, ⁵and said, 'Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? ⁶So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate." ⁷They said to him, "Why then did Moses command one to give a certificate of divorce and to send her away?" ⁸He said to them, "Because

of your hardness of heart Moses allowed you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so. ⁹And I say to you: whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery." Matthew 19:4-9 (ESV)

See 1 Corinthians 7:13-16.

- **Truth #3: THE MARRIAGE COVENANT MUST BE GUARDED.** (2:15-16)

From What Must a Married Believer Guard to Protect the Marriage Covenant?

- Guard your spirit against discontent and dissatisfaction.

- Guard your spirit against sustained anger.

Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, . . . ³²Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you. Ephesians 4:31-32 (NLT)

- Guard your spirit against selfishness.

See 1 Corinthians 13:5; Philippians 2:3.

- Guard your spirit against squishy boundaries.

- **Truth #4: GOD HATES DIVORCE.** (2:16)