

Bethany Bible Study & Discussion



Malachi Part-4 (chapter 2:10-17) KJV

11.15.2023

2:10-17

Marriage | Divorce | Remarriage

BASIS FOR UNITY: What is the basis for unity and what must it lead to? What does it mean to 'deal treacherously' 'profaning'? (10)

MARRIAGE TO FOREIGN WIVES: How has Judah dealt treacherously? Why is God opposed to foreign wives? (11-12)

DIVORCE & REMARRIAGE: Why do tears on the altar go unanswered? Why does God hate divorce? Is separation from spouse ever permitted? (13-16) How have we wearied the Lord with our words? (17)

REFLECTION: Are we faithful to our marriage covenant?

Basis for Unity (10)

Basis of our unity

¹⁰ Have we not all one father? hath not one God created us? why do we deal treacherously every man against his brother, by profaning the covenant of our fathers?

One Father | One Creator ... If so, we must live in unity and love.

Treacherously (10,11,14,15) ... meaning 'lack of loyalty'
or being faithless (opposite of faithful)

Profaned Opposite of sacred or holy

Leviticus 10:10

And that ye may put difference between holy and unholy, and between unclean and clean;

Israelites seen lacking loyalty and polluting the covenant made with God and their wives.

A background image showing several hands clasped together in a circle, suggesting a group in prayer or unity. The hands are of various skin tones. The image is partially obscured by a blue vertical bar on the left and a white semi-transparent box in the center.

God desires unity

I CORINTHIANS 10:10 Have we not all one father? hath not one God created us? why do we deal treacherously every man against his brother, by profaning the covenant of our fathers?

I Corinthians 12:25 That there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another.

John 17:23 I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one;



Marriage to Foreign wives (11-12)

Marriage to foreign wives

¹¹ Judah hath dealt treacherously, and an abomination is committed in Israel and in Jerusalem; for Judah hath profaned the holiness of the Lord which he loved, and hath married the daughter of a strange god.

¹² The Lord will cut off the man that doeth this, the master and the scholar, out of the tabernacles of Jacob, and him that offereth an offering unto the Lord of hosts.

Treacherous dealing of Judah

¹²The Lord will cut off the man that doeth this, the master and the scholar, out of the tabernacles of Jacob, and him that offereth an offering unto the Lord of hosts.

Married daughter of a 'strange' god

Consequence:

Lord will cut off (unholy behavior punished and eradicated by God)

Can we marry foreign women?

YES. God is not against marrying foreign women

All believers (regardless of nationality) are one in Christ

But God is against marrying foreign women that worship foreign gods, as they may lead us to idolatry

Israel lead into idolatry by Moabite women

Danger of Pagan women:

They will lead God's people to Idolatry (Deuteronomy 7:1-6)

Idolatry violates commandment #1 and #2

Numbers 25 And Israel abode in Shittim, and the people began to commit whoredom with the daughters of Moab. ² And they called the people unto the sacrifices of their gods: and the people did eat, and bowed down to their gods. ³ And Israel joined himself unto Baalpeor: and the anger of the Lord was kindled against Israel. ⁹ And those that died in the plague were twenty and four thousand.

Ruth was also Moabite but forsook her gods and accepted the God of Israel

Ruth 1:16 And Ruth said, Intreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee: for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God:

King Solomon lead into idolatry

Danger of Pagan women: They will lead God's people to Idolatry

I Kings 11 But king Solomon loved many strange women, together with the daughter of Pharaoh, women of the Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Zidonians, and Hittites: ² Of the nations concerning which the Lord said unto the children of Israel, Ye shall not go in to them, neither shall they come in unto you: for surely they will turn away your heart after their gods: Solomon clave unto these in love. ³ And he had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines: and his wives turned away his heart. ⁴ For it came to pass, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned away his heart after other gods: and his heart was not perfect with the Lord his God, as was the heart of David his father.



Divorce and Remarriage (13-16)

Tears on the Altar

¹³ And this have ye done again, covering the altar of the Lord with tears, with weeping, and with crying out, insomuch that he regardeth not the offering any more, or receiveth it with good will at your hand.

¹⁴ Yet ye say, Wherefore? Because the Lord hath been witness between thee and the wife of thy youth, against whom thou hast dealt treacherously: yet is she thy companion, and the wife of thy covenant.

¹⁵ And did not he make one? Yet had he the residue of the spirit. And wherefore one? That he might seek a godly seed. Therefore take heed to your spirit, and let none deal treacherously against the wife of his youth.

¹⁶ For the Lord, the God of Israel, saith that he hateth putting away: for one covereth violence with his garment, saith the Lord of hosts: therefore take heed to your spirit, that ye deal not treacherously.

Tears on the altar

Who is shedding tears?

Priests who have divorced their wives to marry pagan women.

Why is God ignoring?

God cannot overlook their sin and answer their prayers

God was a witness to the marriage

I PETER 3:⁷ Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.

How is wife described?

wife of thy youth, thy companion, and the wife of the covenant

God made them one through marriage and desired a godly seed

Marriage covenant broken: Divorce to remarry

Divorcing to marry women of pagan cultures

Double sin: Divorce followed by unholy alliance

Deuteronomy 7:3-4

³ Neither shalt thou make marriages with them; thy daughter thou shalt not give unto his son, nor his daughter shalt thou take unto thy son. ⁴ For they will turn away thy son from following me, that they may serve other gods: so will the anger of the Lord be kindled against you, and destroy thee suddenly.

II Corinthians 6:15-16

¹⁴ Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?

¹⁵ And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?¹⁶ And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols?

God hates divorce

¹⁶For the Lord, the God of Israel, saith that he hateth putting away: for one covereth violence with his garment, saith the Lord of hosts: therefore take heed to your spirit, that ye deal not treacherously.

Divorce

goes against God's commandment

breaks the institution of marriage

destroys the covenant of love and trust

poor witness to the world

does not represent "Christ & Church"

While divorce allowed in some cases, it is never God's perfect will. It is **always better to reconcile than to separate.**

We must be guided by spirit in all decisions (and not our intellect or instinct or emotions) ... do not deal treacherously.

Are Sinners really blessed while righteous suffer?

¹⁷ Ye have wearied the Lord with your words. Yet ye say, Wherein have we wearied him? When ye say, Every one that doeth evil is good in the sight of the Lord, and he delighteth in them; or, Where is the God of judgment?

FAQ: Why are unrighteous flourishing while God's children are suffering?

God is wearied with such unjust accusations

Read Psalms 73

¹² Behold, these are the ungodly, who prosper in the world; they increase in riches. ¹³ Verily I have cleansed my heart in vain, and washed my hands in innocency.

¹⁷ Until I went into the sanctuary of God; then understood I their end.

Reflection & Questions

What is the foundation for godly marriage? Does Bible permit separation? What if you are already married to an unbeliever? What if you are already divorced?

Marriage

Need right foundation

Need Biblical roles for husband and wife

Marriage

Genesis 2:24 Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.

Instituted by God between one man and one woman

God is a witness to the marriage covenant (Malachi 2:14)

Covenant must be honored till “death” (Mark 10:9, What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder)

Husband and wife: distinct roles, co-partners with mutual love & respect

Marriage forms the foundation of family (Genesis 1:27-28)

Any intimate relationship outside of marriage is prohibited (Exodus 20:17)

A dark background featuring two hands shaking in a firm grip. A white square outline is drawn around the point where the hands meet. The text 'Right Foundation' is overlaid on the left side of the image.

Right Foundation

EQUALLY YOKED

+

LEAVING & CLEAVING &
BECOMING ONE (Genesis 2:24)

What are the Husbands called to do?

LEAD

Ephesians 5: 23 For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church:

LOVE

Ephesians 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;

HONOR

1 Peter 3:7 Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honor unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.

What are the wives called to do?

SUBMIT & RESPECT

Ephesians 5:22 Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. 23 For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. 24 Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so *let* the wives *be* to their own husbands in every thing. 32 and the wife *see* that she *reverence her* husband



**Husbands &
Wives roles:
Mutual
submission &
Interdependence**

Ephesians 5: 21 Submitting yourselves **one to another** in the fear of God.

1 Corinthians 7:4-5 The wife's body does not belong to her alone but also to her husband. In the same way, the husband's body does not belong to him alone but also to his wife.

Role of God in Marriage

Ecclesiastes 4:12

“and a **threefold cord** is not quickly broken”

Psalms 127: 1

Except the LORD build the house, they labor in vain that build it: ... 2 *It is vain* for you to rise up early, to sit up late, to eat the bread of sorrows:

Divine Marriage: Christ & Church

EPHESIANS 5:25-27 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; ²⁶ That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, ²⁷ That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

REVELATION 19:7 Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. ⁸ And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints. ⁹ And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb.

Situations where Divorce/ Separation may be considered

Adultery

- **Mathew 19: 8** He saith unto them, Moses because of the hardness of your hearts suffered you to put away your wives: but from the beginning it was not so. ⁹ And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery.
- **Deuteronomy 24:1-4** (uncleanness of woman)

Unbelieving spouse departs

- **I Corinthians 7: ¹⁵** But if the unbelieving depart, let him depart. A brother or a sister is not under bondage in such cases:

Physical abuse of spouse and/or children (?)

What to do if
you are
already
divorced?

Not possible to go back in history ...
seek forgiveness from God for
mistake made.

All our sins can be forgiven ...
including sin of divorce

Blood of Jesus Christ his Son
cleanseth us from all sins (1 John 1:7)

Other Questions

What if married to Unbeliever?

I Corinthians 7:12-16 Stay married, unless the unbeliever decides to leave

What if spouse dies? I Corinthians 7:39 The wife is bound by the law as long as her husband liveth; but if her husband be dead, she is at liberty to be married to whom she will; only in the Lord.

Is remarriage considered adultery? If divorced, couple is still considered married; and any remarriage (except in adultery case) is considered adultery

Mathew 19:9 Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery.

Marriage Promise

I,_____, take thee,_____, to
be my lawful wedded
Wife/Husband, to have and
to hold from this day
forward, for better for worse,
for richer for poorer, in
sickness and in health, to
love and to cherish, till death
us do part, according to
God's holy ordinance.

Are we faithful to our marriage covenant?

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DIVORCE & REMARRIAGE: Why do tears on the altar go unanswered? Why does God hate divorce? Is separation from spouse ever permitted? (13-16) How have we wearied the Lord with our words? (17)

REFLECTION: How can we build strong marriages?