

The Incredible Importance of Loyalty

To avoid spiritual apathy, cultivate loyalty to God, His Word, His people and your spouse

Malachi 2:10–16 Chris Mueller

Introduction:

Malachi 2:10-17 "Do we not all have one father? Has not one God created us? Why do we deal treacherously each against his brother so as to profane the covenant of our fathers? **11** Judah has dealt treacherously, and an abomination has been committed in Israel and in Jerusalem; for Judah has profaned the sanctuary of the LORD which He loves and has married the daughter of a foreign god. **12** As for the man who does this, may the LORD cut off from the tents of Jacob everyone who awakes and answers, or who presents an offering to the LORD of hosts. **13** This is another thing you do: you cover the altar of the LORD with tears, with weeping and with groaning, because He no longer regards the offering or accepts it with favor from your hand. **14** Yet you say, 'For what reason?' Because the LORD has been a witness between you and the wife of your youth, against whom you have dealt treacherously, though she is your companion and your wife by covenant. **15** But not one has done so who has a remnant of the Spirit. And what did that one do while he was seeking a godly offspring? Take heed then to your spirit, and let no one deal treacherously against the wife of your youth. **16** For I hate divorce," says the LORD, the God of Israel, "and him who covers his garment with wrong," says the LORD of hosts. "So take heed to your spirit, that you do not deal treacherously."

#1 Curing apathy means expressing loyalty to _____ 10

10 "Do we not all have one father? Has not one God created us? Why do we deal treacherously each against his brother so as to profane the covenant of our fathers?"

#2 Removing apathy means showing loyalty to GOD'S _____ 11–12

11 "Judah has dealt treacherously, and an abomination has been committed in Israel and in Jerusalem; for Judah has profaned the sanctuary of the LORD which He loves and has married the daughter of a foreign god. **12** As for the man who does this, may the LORD cut off from the tents of Jacob everyone who awakes and answers, or who presents an offering to the LORD of hosts."

1 Corinthians 7:39 A wife is bound as long as her husband lives; but if her husband is dead, she is free to be married to whom she wishes, only in the Lord.

2 Corinthians 6:14 Do not be bound together with unbelievers; for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness? **15** Or what harmony has Christ with Belial?

#3 Deleting apathy means displaying loyalty to your _____ 13–16

13 "This is another thing you do: you cover the altar of the LORD with tears, with weeping and with groaning, because He no longer regards the offering or accepts it with favor from your hand. 14 Yet you say, 'For what reason?' Because the LORD has been a witness between you and the wife of your youth, against whom you have dealt treacherously, though she is your companion and your wife by covenant. 15 But not one has done so who has a remnant of the Spirit. And what did that one do while he was seeking a godly offspring? Take heed then to your spirit, and let no one deal treacherously against the wife of your youth. 16 For I hate divorce," says the LORD, the God of Israel, "and him who covers his garment with wrong," says the LORD of hosts. "So take heed to your spirit, that you do not deal treacherously."

1 Peter 3:7 You husbands in the same way, live with your wives in an understanding way, as with someone weaker, since she is a woman; and show her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers will not be hindered.

Genesis 2:24 For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh.

Proverbs 2:17 ... the companion of her youth and forgets the covenant of her God.

Ezekiel 16:8 I...entered into a covenant with you so that you became Mine.

PURITAN: She whom you wronged was the companion of those earlier and brighter days, when in the bloom of her young beauty, she left her father's house and shared your early struggles, and rejoiced in your later success; she walked arm in arm with you along the pilgrimage of life, cheering you through its trials by her gentle ministry; and now, when the bloom of her youth has faded and the friends of her youth have gone, now as her father and mother are in the grave, NOW you cruelly cast her off as a worn-out, worthless thing, and insult her holiest affections by putting an idolater and a heathen in her place.

Take this home:

#1 God's hates _____—do you?

#2 God delights in a marriage you _____ in

Proverbs 5:18 Let your fountain be blessed, and rejoice in the wife of your youth.

Ephesians 5:28 In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. 29 For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church.

#3 True believers are loyal to God and show it in their _____ to others

#4 The source of genuine loyalty is God's loyalty to you found in _____

QUESTIONS FOR GROWTH IN CHRIST

1. Why is loyalty such a rare quality in the world of non-believers?
2. Why should Christians be loyal to God and to God's children?
3. How can Christians demonstrate loyalty to God, His Word and God's children?
4. Why does God hate divorce? How should Christians demonstrate God's hatred for divorce?
5. How can Christians demonstrate their hatred for divorce and a unique (divorce-hating) love for their spouses?
6. What steps will you take in order to grow in your loyalty to God and to His people?
7. How can you help other believers grow in the quality of loyalty?

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