

# Keeping the Marriage Covenant

Malachi 2:10-16

The Marriage Covenant Part 2

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## *Introduction:*

Review the first two truths taught in part one: 1) Do not marry an unbeliever; 2) The LORD is a witness to the marriage covenant.

Now we will continue to study Malachi's teachings about marriage in Malachi 2.

## **Read Malachi 2:10-16**

### **3. We must purpose in our heart to be faithful to our marriage covenant.**

#### **Read Malachi 2:13-14**

- There are reasons why this passage is addressed to men, to the husbands, and not to the wife. The husband is to be the spiritual leader in the home, the one who leads the wife and children to follow God. The husband is the one who is the most responsible before God about the family. The husband must take very seriously his role in guarding the marriage covenant.
- Another reason why this passage is addressed to men is that men are more tempted to faithlessness towards the marriage covenant than women. It is far more common for married men to fall into sexual sin than it is for women, although women fall into sin also. Men especially need these truths.

#### **Read Malachi 2:15-16**

- The most wicked kinds of faithlessness towards the marriage covenant are adultery and divorce. God hates these sins. Failure to love our spouse leads us to look at others. We must learn to love our spouse no matter what the situation. God will give us grace to be faithful if we will continually call upon Him.
- We must fear God about the keeping of the marriage covenant. God uses the name "Jehovah of Hosts" in this passage. "Jehovah" is the name for God that means "God who is God" and "I AM." It means the eternal and almighty God who is over all things. "Jehovah of Hosts" reminds us that all of the angels and hosts of heaven serve God and His judgment is certain. We cannot escape God's judgment if we continue to be faithless to our marriage covenant.

*Application: What can we do to help guard our marriage covenant? Stay away from close relationships with other men or women that are not our spouse. Stay away from those places that encourage immorality—bars, restaurants with beer girls in*

*the evenings, massage parlors of ill repute. Do not stay overnight away from home alone. Do not be at home alone with men or women who are not your spouse. Do not listen to music or watch movies that lead your heart to lust after other men or women. Dress modestly. The best guard against faithlessness is the next truth we will consider:*

#### **4. God's purpose is that the husband and wife have a close companionship with one another.**

##### **Read Malachi 2:14**

- It is God's purpose in marriage that the husband and wife be best friends! Husbands must strive to make their wives their closest companion. Wives must strive to make their husbands their closest companion. If the other spouse is an unbeliever or is a Christian that is sinning, we must still strive to be their companion, regardless of their actions. It breaks our hearts when sin causes strain and emotional pain, but we still must seek to be a companion to our spouse, even if they are not striving to be our companion. This is true love.
- Husbands must acknowledge how important this truth is. God made man to be incomplete without a wife. Men NEED women to be their helpers and close companions.

*Application: How can we begin to have the close companionship that God desires? Spend time with your spouse. Talk with your spouse like you would talk to your other friends. Go places with your spouse. If they are a Christian, pray with them and serve God with them.*