

MALACHI

“Faithfulness in Relationships”

August 15, 2010
Malachi 2:10-16 (ESV)

LG Study

QUICK REVIEW

God’s people are to be faithful to the covenant relationship with God in their marriage.

MY STORY

1. Why do you think divorce is so prevalent these days?
2. Prior to hearing this week’s message, would you have considered divorce as a sin? Why or why not? Explain.
3. Share about the most recent time you were able to experience God’s love and/or forgiveness more tangibly because of your encounter with fellow Christian(s).

DIGGING DEEPER

1. What accusation does God bring against Israel? What two specific sins does Malachi address? In what way are these sins an expression of faithlessness towards one another as well as to God (v. 10)?
2. Why was it wrong for an Israelite to marry a foreign woman? (See also Ex 34:15-16, Deut 7:3, Josh 23:12). What consequences did it have on the religious life of Israel in Israel’s history? Read Deut. 7:2-3. How would that apply in today’s culture?

3. What do we learn about marriage in this passage? Who are the parties to the marriage covenant (hint: there are three in the party)? What is one thing that God seeks in a faithful marriage?
4. Generally, Western society has rejected the concept of one marriage for life. For example, if one no longer has feelings of “love” for one’s spouse, it is acceptable to divorce him or her. On the contrary, God has a high view of marriage and its value. Why and how does God hate divorce according to the passage (v.16)?

TAKING IT HOME

1. As we learned this week, marriage is a covenant involving three parties. Yet, it is not uncommon for the third party in that covenant relationship to be neglected or ignored. So, here is what we would like for you to do this week:

If married:

Share with your group one change or adjustment you would like to make in your marriage in light of the lesson learned this week.

If single:

Spend some time praying for each other asking for God’s grace and guidance upon your quest for a Godly spouse.

2. If you are someone who is divorced, we want to invite you to the Growing & Healing after Divorce gathering which is planned by the Marriage & Family Ministry on 8/22 (Sun) at 9:30am in Rm. 216. If you would like more resources or pastoral counseling, please email pastor John (Pastor of Marriage & Family) john@ynccla.org.
3. Prayer & Sharing Devotional:
Please spend the remaining time in sharing your Life Journal (devotional) and praying for one another.



** LifeGroup Study questions are available for pick up at the Information Center located in the lobby. They are also available online at www.ynccla.org.

** Today’s message will be available on CD next week in the YNCC office. Previous weeks’ sermons are also available on CD and viewable online at www.ynccla.org/sermons.

