



Malachi 2:10-16 – What Are God’s Words On Dating And Marriage?

February 18, 2018

1. God calls us to faithfulness.

Have we not all one Father? Has not one God created us? Why then are we faithless to one another, profaning the covenant of our fathers?

Malachi 2:10 (ESV)

the people whom I formed for myself that they might declare my praise.

Isaiah 43:21 (ESV)

2. What are God’s words to those who are single?

Judah has been faithless, and 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. May the Lord cut off from the tents of Jacob any descendant of the man who does this, who brings an offering to the Lord of hosts! Malachi 2:11–12 (ESV)

1. It was never God’s plan to date and marry outside of God’s people in the Old Testament.

Now King Solomon loved many foreign women, along with the daughter of Pharaoh: Moabite, Ammonite, Edomite, Sidonian, and Hittite women, from the nations concerning which the Lord had said to the people of Israel, “You shall not enter into marriage with them, neither shall they with you, for surely they will turn away your heart after their gods.”

Solomon clung to these in love. 1 Kings 11:1–2 (ESV)

For if you turn back and cling to the remnant of these nations remaining among you and make marriages with them, so that you associate with

them and they with you, know for certain that the Lord your God will no longer drive out these nations before you, but they shall be a snare and a trap for you, a whip on your sides and thorns in your eyes, until you perish from off this good ground that the Lord your God has given you.
Joshua 23:12–13 (ESV)

2. It is **never** God's plan to date or marry a non-Christian in the **New Testament**.

A wife is bound to her husband as long as he lives. But if her husband dies, she is free to be married to whom she wishes, only in the Lord. 1 Corinthians 7:39 (ESV)

Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness? What accord has Christ with Belial? Or what portion does a believer share with an unbeliever? What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; as God said, "I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people." 2 Corinthians 6:14–16 (ESV)

3. This is not a **racial** thing. It is a **religious** thing.

4. How **serious** is this issue?

5. What are right and wrong ways to be single?

1. Sin
2. Give up hope
3. Settle for less
4. Beat yourself up
5. Fixate on marriage
6. Turn to Jesus who understands

3. What are God's Words to those who are married?

And this second thing you do. You cover the Lord's altar with tears, with weeping and groaning because he no longer regards the offering or accepts it with favor from your hand. But you say, "Why does he not?" Because the Lord was witness between you and the wife of your youth, to whom you have been faithless, though she is your companion and your wife by covenant. Did he not make them one, with a portion of the Spirit in their union? And what was the one God seeking? Godly offspring Malachi 2:13–15 (ESV)

1. God is a witness between you and the wife of your youth.

2. How does marriage bond a couple?

1. A husband and wife make a covenant not a contract. It is a promise of exclusivity.
2. A husband and wife become one sexually.
3. A husband and wife become companions, best friends.
4. The Holy Spirit knits them together.

3. When does the Bible say divorce is allowable?

1. Death (Romans 7:2)
2. Adultery (Matthew 5:32)
3. Abandonment (1 Corinthians 7:15)
4. What about persistent physical abuse?

4. What else should I know about divorce?

1. If you have grounds for divorce, that doesn't mean I must get a divorce.
2. Do not make the decision to divorce in isolation.
3. Do not make the decision to divorce in haste.

4. Do not make the decision to divorce in lust.
5. Never divorce because you want to. Only divorce because you have to.
6. Before you divorce, think about your children.

4. How can I start and finish marriage well?

.... So guard yourselves in your spirit, and let none of you be faithless to the wife of your youth. "For the man who does not love his wife but divorces her, says the Lord, the God of Israel, covers his garment with violence, says the Lord of hosts. So guard yourselves in your spirit, and do not be faithless." Malachi 2:15-16 (ESV)

1. Guard your spirit and don't be unfaithful to God in your dating.
2. Guard your spirit and don't be unfaithful to God and your spouse in your marriage.
3. Remember your legacy.

Digging Deeper Sermon Study

1. **Read Malachi 2:10-12; Ezra 10:10-17; Nehemiah 13:23-27; 2 Corinthians 6:14-16.** Why is dating and marrying someone outside of the family of God considered a blatant act of infidelity toward God and his people? What would you say to help a Christian friend that is dating an unbeliever?
2. **Read Malachi 2:13-16; Matthew 12:33-35.** What about modern life encourages infidelity toward our spouse? Malachi tells us to guard our heart. What are some of the best ways to do that?
3. **Read Genesis 2:18-24; Malachi 2:14-16.** What does this teach about marriage? How is Christian marriage different from marriage in the eyes of the state?