

UNHOLY MATRIMONY

Malachi 2:10-16

**Let us learn from Malachi about unholy matrimony
and avoid those sins that encourage it.**

I. MARRYING THE WRONG PERSON (10-12)

- The problem of an unbelieving partner

A. THEIR UNFAITHFULNESS (10-11)

1. Unfaithful to their covenant (10)
 2. Unfaithful to their nation (11a)
 3. Unfaithful to their God (11b)
 - a. Desecration: They trampled on God's pure sanctuary
 - b. Idolatry: They trampled on God's pure institution – See I Kings 11:1-4
 - c. Inequality: Ignoring God's command to avoid marriage with an unbeliever
- Note II Cor. 6:14-17

B. THEIR JUDGMENT (12a)

1. A prophet prays against them!
 2. The faithless have no protection!
- A sense of isolation, separation and devastation

C. THEIR HYPOCRISY (12b)

1. Justifying Sin
2. Presenting Offerings

II. MARRYING WITH THE WRONG PERSPECTIVE (13-16)

- The problem of meaningless marriage vows

A. THEIR SITUATION (13-14a)

1. They are Distressed
 2. God is Distant
- Because their offerings are unimpressive and unacceptable
3. They are dense (14a)

B. GOD'S RESPONSE (14b-16)

- He does not accept their worship because ...

1. They defy God's watchfulness (14b)

NOTE: Verse 15 is a very difficult verse to translate with many issues.

- The NASV probably has one of the worst and most awkward translations here.

- The ESV, NIV and NKJV all have what appears to be better translations

Did he not make them one, with a portion of the Spirit in their union? And what was the one God seeking? Godly offspring. So guard yourselves in your spirit, and let none of you be faithless to the wife of your youth. (ESV)

2. They mar God's design (15a)

a. For a spiritual oneness - See Gen. 2:24

b. And a godly offspring

3. They incite God's wrath (16a)

a. He hates divorce - See Matt. 19:4-6

b. And He hates those who allow violence to cling to them

C. THE REMEDY (15b & 16b)

1. Guard your spirit

a. Resist the temptation from a woman not your wife

b. Protect your spiritual health

2. Love your wife

a. When you love her you will not treat her treacherously (14b)

b. When you love her you will not ignore your companion (14c)

c. When you love her you will keep your covenant (14d)

CONCLUSION:

Let us remember that there are serious repercussions for unfaithfulness

- When we become desensitized and disobedient with God we are likely to also become defiant and disagreeable about holy matrimony

Is your marriage holy?

- Do you protect it seriously?

Let's be careful to maintain a godly attitude about holy matrimony.

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