

Malachi 04 – Cancer In God’s Body: Divorce

Dr. Leon L. Sanders
Malachi 2:10-17

Issue is Godly Marriages

- This lessons requires us to *clearly* identify what is and is not being discussed
 - Poor identification of terms leads to conflation, incorrect hermeneutics and thus to false conclusions
 - God is discussing marriage in narrow terms within specific circumstances
 - Application must also follow these guidelines to prevent incorrect conclusions now as well as then

What is a Marriage

- Christ defined marriage as a covenant relationship between one man and one woman (Mt 19:16)
 - Refutes the current LGBT agenda of redefining marriage as a union between any two people (Children)
 - Refutes current transgenderism; God makes each person male or female (Gender is a false construct)
 - His covenantal union (one flesh) only applies to believers (God does not covenant with non-believers) (1Co> 6:13-20)

Examples of Marriage

- Adam and Eve (Ge 2:18-25) – Both sinless and joined by God
- Saved Man and Woman (Ep 5:25-32) – Example of Christ and His body, the **ἐκκλησία** {Called out assembly}
- New Jerusalem (Re 21:1-4) – All believers from *all* times joined to Christ (His bride) in the New Jerusalem {Church – *First fruits* of the Bride of Christ}

Biblical Marriage Involves Christ

- Judah as covenant nation was to demonstrate this union to the world
- Judah copying the world, marriage contract joining believers to unbelievers: Antichrist covenant



Godly Marriage – Example to World

- World benefits *copying* God's example of marriage to achieve some sort of societal stability {Morality}
 - God's example frequently distorted; multiple partners and various sexual perversions (Re 1:6-7)
 - Marriage is a contractual arrangement managed by the state for the benefit of the state {Castes}
 - They are not in a covenant with God but with **Lucifer**

Malachi Asked Obvious Question

- "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?" Mal 1:10
- God did create Man and Woman who started the birthing process, in sin, fathering all peoples in all times
- Each person does bear the *image of God* to some degree evidenced by commonality of morality (Ten Words) (Ex 20:1-21)
- God is **not** the spiritual Father of everyone Qo 5:42-48

Faithless to God's Covenant

- Judah demonstrated that God was not their Father
 - Demonstrated disdain for marital covenant
 - Disdained the Mosaic Covenant
 - Actively sought anti-God contractual unions with unbelievers to produce unholy {unbelieving} children
 - Exchanged holy covenants for unholy covenants satisfying prurient lusts abandoning holy children (Isa 1:29)

Injunction Against Idolatry

- The real issue not foreign brides but unbelieving foreign brides
 - God never condemned the marriage of Boaz to Ruth (Ru 3:15-16, 4:8-10)
 - 'Twas Balaam who introduced this stratagem to the Gentiles to defeat God's message of salvation (De 2:16)
 - Judah claimed to love God's Mosaic covenant while breaking His marital covenant - He was not their Father

Whining Over God

- People whined that God did not answer their prayers
 - They *offered* Him sacrifices yet He did not honor their prayers (They declared God unfaithful rather than they)
 - They did not offer their hearts, only their diseased and blemished animal sacrifices keeping best for self (Is. 51:15-16)
 - They tried to come *near* to God with works but not with their hearts - Sinners demonstrating their lost natures (Is. 29:13)

They Disdained His Covenant

- The other reason He ignored their prayers: They ignored their covenant with wives of their youth
 - Talmudic practice allowed the divorce of one's wife on any pretext, at any time and without any recourse
 - She had to leave immediately with only what she was wearing (Parable of Lost Coin) (Lk. 15:8-10)
 - When wives became less productive: they were replaced

Elderly Woman - No Recourse

- Elderly divorced women had no income support
 - They frequently remained unmarried and therefore unsupported which meant begging for subsistence
 - Their only outlet was to cry out their grief before the Lord who held their husbands guilty
 - The hardness of their husband's hearts showed their rejection of God's covenant relationship and the love of fleshly lusts not satiated by younger foreign wives

Purpose of Marriage – Godly Children

- Lucifer's (Balaam) plan: Stop God's message to the world by having God's people contractually join themselves to Lucifer via immoral idolatry & practices
- God's plan: Perpetuation of His people via marriages that produce godly children: those who accept His salvation and continue the message to future children

Divorce: Root of Societal Violence

- Divorce is sin; hence, the reference to covering one's self with violence (hallmark of sin)
- These men had no fear of God, loved their sin and reveled in their fleshly appetites before God & world
- They were not interested in producing godly children but in satisfying physical lusts whenever they wanted

They Were Faithless

- Because the men were the leaders of the nation and the family their faithlessness translated into children who were also faithless to family and to God
 - This is the sin of the fathers passing downward to subsequent generations
 - Sons become more hardened than their fathers
 - Daughters expect no love and therefore give no love

This Guidance Only to Judah

- This guidance given to His people who are joined to Him via the Mosaic Covenant (Israel then Judah)
 - These injunctions do not pertain to any other nation as they belong to Lucifer (Mal 4:5-10)
 - These principles can provide stability to the contracts of the lost; however, they are in rebellion against God by their very nature and cannot please Him (1Co-2:14)

Christian Marriages

- Paul cautions Christian marital partners not to summarily divorce lost partners since their presence *sanctifies* the children (godly children) (1Co 7:12-16)
- Christians are commanded *not* to marry unbelievers as this yokes Christ to unbelievers in an unholy alliance (2Co 6:14-18)
 - The believer is in rebellion against God (Saved?)

Christians Marriages to the Lost

- Christians are to govern their marriages by Scripture
 - Wife becomes saved, husband remains lost (vice versa)
 - Marriage (Covenant) not to be summarily broken but if lost person leaves then one is called to peace in Christ
 - Marriage covenant designed to teach children, by example, the love of Christ in life as demonstrated by the parents

Marriage vs. Morality

- Christians who seek to **force** non-Christians to live by biblical truths force them to live outwardly moral lives without the godly relationship necessary to turn it from a system of works into a life of grace (Morality is not Salvation)
- Christians who seek to use the government (tool of Lucifer) to force biblical marriages are demanding that Lucifer be divided against Lucifer - Impossible (Mt. 13:23-26)

Christians to Eschew Force

- Christians are to demonstrate the truth of God in their lives rather than seek to use the state to **force** others to live against their (lost) natures
 - Using the state turns Christians into persecutors
 - Denies the power of God's salvation to change lives
 - Promotes works system justifying fleshly righteousness
 - Teaches that morality is salvation when it is not (Great Awakenings)

Christians to Live Godly Lives

- God's message of hope demonstrated in our lives stands in stark contrast to the foolishness and debauchery at work in the lives of the lost (Mt. 23:13-15)
 - They contrast the hope of our submission to Christ and not in the force we bring to bear via the state
 - The worse the world becomes, the brighter the hope within us to those called of Christ out of this darkness of confused hopelessness that robs them of true peace