



“Be Faithful to Him²” Malachi 2:10-17

As the marriage goes so goes the family & as the family goes so goes society. The deterioration of our society is due to the delinquency of our children due to the disfunction of the family due to the high divorce rate. The Bible says that marriage is to be a lifelong monogamous relationship between a man & woman who are Christians (Gen2:24-25; Matt19:4-6).

What is Covenant Marriage? vv14-15a; Gen2:24-25

- Consumer Marriage says, “I’ll be the kind of spouse I should be if and to the degree you’ll be the kind of spouse you should be. My needs and desires are more important than the relationship.
- Covenant Marriage says, “I’ll be the kind of spouse I should be whether or not you are the kind of spouse you should be because Jesus gave me spousal love like that. He loved me not because I was lovely but in order to make me lovely. And I’ll do that for you! The relationship is more important than my needs and desires.

What are the Consequences of Marriage Unfaithfulness (Divorce)?

- It Disconnects us from our Relationship with God. v13; 1Pet 3:7; Matt5:23-24
- It Displays our lack of personal integrity and character. vv14, 15, 17
- It Destroys the foundation of the church and society. v15; Pro22:6
- It Deteriorates the advancing of our life mission. V15; Eph6:1-4
- It Devastates the lives of everyone involved. v16

What are the Biblical Grounds for Divorce?

- Adultery (Sexual or emotional adultery along with pornography, Deut24:1, affirmed by Jesus in Matt19:3-9; Matt5:27-28)
- Abandonment (Emotional and physical abuse or neglect, Exodus21:10-11, Affirmed by Paul in 1Cor7:10-16)

-Anyone who has divorced on Biblical grounds is a candidate for remarriage.

-When the divorce is on unbiblical grounds any subsequent remarriage (to someone other than the original spouse) results in adultery (Matt19:9).

-Unbiblically divorced Christians should repent and be forgiven and seek reconciliation if possible.

-Unbiblically divorced and remarried Christians should stay as they are, but repent and be forgiven and make whatever amends are necessary.

-Divorcing for unbiblical reasons is NOT the unpardonable sin.

Repentance brings cleansing and healing. (1Jn1:9; 2Cor7:10-11; Ps32, 51)

Growing Notes

- 1) As we work our way through the book of Malachi why do you think failing to love God (Mal1:1-5), worship God (1:6-14), listen to God (2:1-9) would cause us to be unfaithful to God by our mate selection (unequally yoked 2:10-13) and lack of marriage commitment (divorce 2:14-17)? What kind of impact does the marriage relationship have on the family and ultimately society?
- 2) Read Malachi 2:10-17. What is the difference between a consumer marriage and a covenant marriage? The secret of a great marriage is to do for your spouse what God has done for you in Jesus (and the rest will follow). Explain. How is Jesus’ sacrificial love for you both the pattern and power for you to sacrificially love your spouse?
- 3) What are the Consequences of Marriage Unfaithfulness (Divorce)? Review the five points under this question. Which one(s) are the most convicting to you? Remember God doesn’t convict us to shame us but to save and satisfy us with more of Himself. Explain.
- 4) What are the Biblical grounds for divorce? No one can walk through divorce objectively without Godly counsel. Explain. Who is and isn’t a candidate for remarriage after a divorce? What should unbiblically divorced Christians do? What should unbiblically divorced and remarried Christians do? Divorcing for unbiblical reasons is not the unpardonable sin. What must you do to find cleansing and healing (1John1:9; 2Cor7:10-11; Ps32, 51)? Pray.