

God Requires Faithfulness Between a Man and His Wife Malachi 2:13-16

God's people cannot and _____ not forget what God has done for them-if they do, their lives will be marked by faithlessness!

Malachi 1:2-5

“Who can ever begin to appreciate what this royal marriage means? Who can comprehend the riches of this glorious grace? Christ, the rich and divine bridegroom, marries this poor, wicked whore, redeems her from all of her evil, and adorns her with all of His goodness. It now is impossible for her sins to destroy her, for they are laid on Christ and swallowed up by Him. She has her righteousness in Christ, her husband, which she now can boast is her very own. She can set this righteousness over against all of her sins, and in the face of death and hell, say with confidence: ‘If I have sinned, nevertheless, the One in whom I trust, my Christ, has not sinned. Through our marriage all that is His is mine and all this is mine is His.’”

-Luther, “The Freedom of the Christian” pg. 64

In this passage the Lord continues His rebuke of His people and we see that the people are _____ (crying, weeping, groaning) because God is not looking at their worship with any kind of acceptance

Malachi 2:13

The people respond with a question about why He is not accepting their offerings, prayer, and worship. To which, God responds by pointing to their _____ faithfulness as the reason

Malachi 2:14

God stands as a _____ when a man and a woman are united in the covenant of marriage

The wife is to be a life-long _____ of her husband
Proverbs 2:17

God then gives two reasons why a man should not disregard His wife and be _____ to her:

1. From the _____, the plan of the Lord was to unite one man and one woman so that they might be joined in a one flesh relationship

Malachi 2:15a

-Why did God do this from the beginning? One reason the text gives us is “godly offspring”-children raised and nurtured in an environment where they see _____ modeled

2. When a person chooses to wickedly treat the wife of his youth he sins not only against God and his wife but also against _____ and wears the guilt of his shame

Malachi 2:16

Following both reasons God gives a similar charge/warning to His people to guard their _____ (for from the heart come all things that defile a person-Mark 7:20-22)

Malachi 2:15 & 16

Application

To the married:

1. How you (husband and wife) treat each other does affect your _____ (1 Peter 3:7)
2. Remember that your marriage is to be more than simply satisfying your feelings: it is to be a testimony of your _____ to God, to your children, and to the world

To all:

1. Do not use examples of people’s sin in the Bible to _____ away your own sin
2. “_____ yourselves in your spirit”