



## When Unfaithfulness Becomes the Norm

Malachi 2:10-16  
July 6, 2025

- **THE BIG IDEA:** When we try and navigate life on our own terms, the road becomes darker, and pitfalls become larger. When we take control of our **own** situations, unfaithfulness to one another becomes the **norm**, but when we allow a **faithful** God to take control of our life, our relationships with one another grows **strong**.

### Malachi 2:10-16 (ESV)

**2** 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? 11 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. 12 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! 13 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. 14 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. 15 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 on your spirit, and let none of you be faithless to the wife of your youth. 16 "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."

### The Big Picture

- + The term "**unfaithful**" is mentioned 5 times in this passage.
- + One step from mere half-hearted worship to now one step toward whole-hearted unfaithfulness to God and the community
- + Israel **forsakes** their God and therefore begins forsaking and mistreating one another.
- + Israel's unfaithfulness to God has been an **ongoing** cycle in the Old Testament, despite God's faithfulness to them (Deut. 32:4-6).

### The 5 Sins of Israel (Unfaithfulness to God)

1. **Desecrating** the Sanctuary of the Lord (2:11-12)

- a. God is holy
  - b. Two possibilities to what the term "Sanctuary" is referring to: The Holy **Temple** to where God lives among His people or the Holy **People** of God.
    - i. The **Temple** is most likely being referred to.
2. **Marrying** foreign women (2:11)
    - a. Being holy, not **discriminatory**.
  3. Divorcing their Israelite Wives (2:13-15)
    - a. God vs. Divorce
      - i. God hates **infidelity**
      - ii. God hates divorce because it is **harmful** and **apostasy**.
    - b. Until we are **content** being one with Christ, we cannot be content with being one in **marriage**.
  4. Failing to **produce** godly offspring (2:15)
    - a. **Six** times in the book of Genesis, God commands humans to be fruitful and multiply
  5. **Violence** (2:16)

### Two-Fold Solution

1. Two greatest commandments:
  - a. Love God- To be able to **properly** love one another, you must first **obediently** serve God
  - b. Love One Another- When God's love is fully saturated on the believer, it now opens the door for the fruit of **faithfulness** to come in and abide.
2. Even though we may sometimes be faithless, we must **remember** that God is always faithful.

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"Faith is not the absence of problems; it's the presence of God."

Charles Stanley

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