



For Further Study



Read and meditate on the passage below:

15 Has not the one God made you? You belong to him in body and spirit. And what does the one God seek? Godly offspring. So be on your guard, and do not be unfaithful to the wife of your youth.

16 “The man who hates and divorces his wife,” says the Lord, the God of Israel, “does violence to the one he should protect,” says the Lord Almighty.

So be on your guard, and do not be unfaithful. (Malachi 2:15-16)

The above passage is from the prophetic oracles of Malachi. Back in verse 10 of Malachi 2, the prophet begins this section by suggesting that every person is created by God and we should be faithful to God by being faithful to each other. The prophet is speaking primarily of the importance of God’s people to be faithful by living out the values of God’s kingdom. Regretfully, Judah and Israel have been unfaithful. Their lack of devotion to treating others like God treats us all has even seeped into their marriages.

Jewish men were being unfaithful to their wives, and Malachi uses this image to speak of their unfaithfulness to God. Just as a married couple might long for offspring, God’s desire is for us (his children) to live out his values in the world, drawing others to experience them too. Yet, when a man shows hatred towards his wife and divorces her, he is acting violently against the very one that he promised to protect. This is antithetical to what marriage is to be, and it mirrors the social violence of hatred towards others in society.

At the end of both verses above, we are called to be on our guard by being faithful to God and one another.



REFLECTION:

Consider what faithfulness to God and others means to you.

PRACTICE:

Do an inventory of the ways that you are or are not being faithful to God and others.