

Malachi 2:10-16
Collapse: The Sanctuary and Divorce

Introduction: *Hesed* –God’s Covenant Love

1. God is a Covenant Making/Keeping God (5 OT Cov)
2. Covenant provides the Underlying Structure for the Lord’s Fellowship with His People
3. Christians are Bound to God by Covenant – How God communes with Us and We with Him
4. The Full extent of God’s Covenantal Commitment is seen in the Cross: Jesus poured out His Blood to Bind Himself to an Unworthy People
5. Should Make Us Covenantally Oriented to Others!

Main Idea of the Text:

Your faithful relationship to God feeds your faithful relationship with others. How you love others generally & specifically in marriage is a sign for how you love God.

**Judah Was Faithless Toward One Another:
Breaking Unity In The Family Of God (v. 10)**

1. God is Our Father & Creator (We are Bound to Him)
Deuteronomy 32:3-9 (Specifically verse 6)
2. Collapse of Community – Faithless Citizens
3. Lack of Integrity – No Trust, No Love for Neighbor
 - a. This can be a Description of our World:
4. Judah’s Responsibility: A Witness To Neighbors
 - a. To be Image Bearers of God to the World
 - b. God is True, Delivers, Speaks Life, Keeps His Promises – God is Love
 - c. God’s People were to be Holy as He is Holy
 - d. Judah was Misrepresenting God
5. Our Responsibility: What About Us?
 - a. Are you reflecting the Character of God?
 - b. How do you react when someone is faithless to you?
 - c. Do you seek vengeance, or hold a grudge?
 - d. Do you break the relationship?
 - e. Do you seek Forgiveness and Restoration?

**Judah Profaned The Sanctuary With Idolatry:
Marrying Pagan (Idolatrous) Women (vv. 11-12)**

1. OT: Tabernacle, Temple – Physical and Outward – God’s Dwelling Place (**Verse 11**)
 - a. God Dwells in the Midst of His People
 - b. Judah became Unequally Yoked – not based in race, but worship of the One True God
 - c. Judah brought foreign gods into the Camp through the influence of unbelieving spouses
 - d. Judah profaned the Sanctuary of the Lord
2. NT: Temple is Spiritual and Inward – You are the dwelling place of God, the Holy Spirit (**1 Cor 1:6**)
 - a. You and I can desecrate the holy place of God, not the church building, but our bodies by being unequally yoked, immorality, sin
 - b. The Body is the Temple of Jesus (**Eph 2**)
 - c. Defying God’s Law = Profaning the Place where God dwells
3. Result of Idolatry: Cut Off From Jacob – barriers between the Lord and His People (**Verse 12**)

**Judah Abandoned The Marital Covenant:
Divorcing Jewish Wives (vv. 13-16)**

1. God has Withdrawn from His People (**Verse 13**)
2. God prizes Obedience over Sacrifice
3. Why? The Lord Witnessed the Marriage Covenant & Witnessed the Breaking of that Vow (**Verses 14-16**)
4. Faith was Broken Ultimately to God
5. Marriage is a Mirror Image of God’s Love for His Bride (His People – **Isaiah 54:4-8**) - Guard Yourself

Christ Never Abandons His Bride

1. God Keeps Covenant Through Blood
2. Jesus Offered His Blood as a Sign of the New Covenant (**Philippians 2, Matthew 26:26-29**)