

MALACHI 2:10-16

Sermon Reflection Questions

These questions are designed to help individuals, families, and small groups discuss and apply passages in the Malachi sermon series as taught at Grace Bible Church in spring 2019.

Observe & Interpret

Read Malachi 2:10-16. What were the two major social/spiritual issues Malachi addressed in this passage (cf. Nehemiah 13:23-24)? What were the effects on both individuals and the community?

How does this section on marriage and divorce fit into the broader themes of Malachi, particularly his emphasis on God-honoring worship (cf. 1 John 4:20)?

Why should a believer avoid marrying an unbeliever (2 Corinthians 6:14-15)? Provide both theological and practical reasons.

If a believer is married to an unbeliever, what should he/she do (1 Corinthians 7:12-16; 1 Peter 3:1-2)?

What are biblically permissible, not required, reasons for divorce (Matthew 19:3-9; 1 Corinthians 7:15)?¹

Apply

How can we encourage others who are living in a difficult marriage situation?

Under what circumstances, and for how long, should a spouse who has been wronged by adultery or abandonment pursue and wait for reconciliation?

What behaviors or attitudes are destructive to a marriage?

If you are married, what can you do to make your marriage stronger? What are the most important character qualities and behaviors for a strong marriage?

If you are single, what can you do now to prepare yourself to be an excellent husband/wife some day?

Memorize: Philippians 2:3. Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves....

¹ Note that for centuries biblical scholars argued "from the lesser to the greater." That is, if abandonment was a legitimate reason for divorce, then abuse, which is criminal, was also a legitimate reason for divorce.