



Restoring Holiness: The Book of Malachi

Holiness and Relationships

In this passage Malachi issues a call for restoration of holiness with:
 The God of the Covenant
 The People of God
 Our Partner in Marriage

Malachi 2:10-16

Covenant Holiness

:10 Have we not all one Father? Has not one God created us? Why do we deal **treacherously** with one another by **profaning** the covenant of the fathers?

Holiness in Relationships

:11 Judah has dealt **treacherously**, and an abomination has been committed in Israel and in Jerusalem, for Judah has **profaned** The LORD's holy institution which He loves: He has married the daughter of a foreign god.

:12 May the LORD cut off from the tents of Jacob the man who does this, being awake and aware, yet who brings an offering to the LORD of hosts!

Holiness in Marriage

:13 And this is the second thing you do: You cover the altar of the LORD with tears, with weeping and crying; So He does not regard the offering anymore, nor receive it with goodwill from your hands.

:14 Yet you say, "For what reason?" Because the LORD has been **witness** between you and the wife of your youth, with whom you have dealt **treacherously**; Yet she is your companion and your wife by covenant.

:15 But did He not make *them* one, having a remnant of the Spirit? And why one? He seeks godly offspring. "Therefore take heed to your spirit, and let none deal **treacherously** with the wife of his youth.

:16 "For the LORD God of Israel says that He hates divorce, for it covers one's garment with violence," Says the LORD of hosts. Therefore take heed to your spirit, that you do not deal **treacherously**."

Introduction: The Great Cover Up Mal 2:10; 16

Therefore take heed to your spirit,
 That you do not deal treacherously."

1. The word '**treacherously**' comes from a Hebrew word that means 'garment' or figuratively 'to act covertly.'
2. The word is used five times in this passage
3. What the people were doing involved a 'cover up.' They were giving the 'appearance' of holiness but violating God's commands. (2 Tim 3:5)

A. Restoring Covenant Holiness :10

1. If God is their Father it is time for them to act like sons and daughters.
2. Not only did they 'cover up' from God but also from each other.
3. **Profane**: To treat something that is sacred or holy with irreverence, contempt and unworthy.

B. Restoring Holiness in Relationships :11-12

1. Marriage is considered HOLY by God
2. Israel was chosen to be a holy people, a royal priesthood and a special possession. (Exo 19:5-6; Deu 7:6; Deu 14:2)
3. The problem here was being yoked or linked with those who worshiped idols and other gods. (2 Cor 6:15-16)
4. The implication is that by establishing relationships outside of Gods will—the people were breaking 'faith' with one another as well as with God.
5. Here is an alternate reading of verse :12 " May the LORD cut off from the nation of Israel every last man who has done this and yet brings an offering to the LORD of Heaven's Armies. " NLT

C. Restoring Holiness in Marriage :13-16

1. The people's sorrow was for the wrong reason; they should have been bemoaning their sins rather than their lack of divine blessing.
2. God is a 'witness' to the covenant between a man and woman.
3. God created man and woman to be 'one flesh' in marriage. Gen 2:24; Mal 2:15
4. God hates divorce because it represents a broken covenant-promise.

What ever the broken promise is in your life—God can heal and restore holiness through His grace and power.