

The Mystery of Marriage

Mal. 2:15-16

*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.”*

Last week, we looked at this scripture in the light of the issue of “godly offspring”.

There is also some fascinating revelation here about marriage in this key text, that many people today are ignorant of, because it deals with God’s view on divorce, and people are afraid to look at that.

(1) A “remnant of the Spirit”

*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 in your spirit, and let none of you be faithless to the wife of your youth. (ESV)*

This speaks of God’s commitment to and participation in the covenant.

Marriage & Christianity reveal each other

*Eph. 5:31-32 “For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” **This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church.***

History climaxes in a wedding!

Rev. 19:7 - Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.”

Conversely, if we don’t live out our marriage covenant with God and for God, there’s not much grace in our lives.

*1 Pet. 3:7 Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being **heirs together of the grace of life**, that your **prayers may not be hindered.***

Mal. 2:13-14

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.

(2) It “covers one’s garment with violence”

*16 “For the man who hates and divorces, 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.**” (ESV)*

“...To divorce your wife is to overwhelm her with cruelty,” Mal. 2:16 NLT

- Disappointment can lead to deception

*Prov. 4:23 – guard your heart with all diligence, for out of it are the springs of life
Matt. 19:8- He said to them, “Moses, **because of the hardness of your hearts,**
permitted you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so.*

“Redeem” (definition)

1. To compensate for the faults or bad aspects of something
2. Gain or regain possession of (something) in exchange for payment