

What God Hates (Malachi 2) – 7.16.17 #cccsermons

The Last Words of the Old Testament: a Series on the book of Malachi

Malachi is written as a **WAKE-UP** call for all of us to make sure our motives and actions are pleasing to the Lord. Ironically, in **Malachi 1**, God tells his people He still loves them, but in **Malachi 2**, God tells them what He **HATES**. Basically, God **HATES** when we **COMPROMISE** the truth.

#1 God hates leaders who MISLEAD people. Malachi 2:1-9

The priests in the time of Malachi had stopped teaching proper worship, stopped reverencing God and stopped holding the people accountable for their sins or even telling them they are in sin.

God HATES sin, but God hates when leaders MISLEAD more because it MISREPRESENTS who He is!

Brennan Manning, author of *The Ragamuffin Gospel*, said,

*“The greatest single cause of atheism in the world today is Christians. Who acknowledge Jesus with their lips, and walk out the door, and deny Him with their lifestyle. That is what an unbelieving world **simply finds unbelievable.**”*

- **Those in authority will be held accountable for the way they use their INFLUENCE** (see **James 3:1**). We have a **RESPONSIBILITY** to train the next generation in the ways of God.

#2 God hates when people COMPROMISE their faith. Malachi 2:11

- When leaders fail to lead correctly, people go astray, follow their own destructive ways and eventually collapse their value system.
- How we view God as we grow up will determine our **WORLDVIEW**.
- It doesn't take much for a little compromise with sin to eventually lead to a **TOTAL** compromise of the Word of God and to the breaking of the faith.
- God is a **JEALOUS** God who wants our full commitment, our best efforts.

#3 God hates when you try to manipulate His hand by doing godly things, but with the wrong MOTIVES. Malachi 2:12-14

- The Lord Almighty isn't pleased to share you with other gods even if you offer pay your tithes and go to church. (see **Galatians 1:10**)
- After all, God doesn't want our offerings, He wants our **HEART**.
- **It doesn't matter how much you cry at the ALTAR, as long as you ALTER the way you live after the tears.**
- You can cry all you want, but you reap what you sow. (see **Galatians 6:7-8**)
- You want God to bless you? Stop crying and start **SOWING**.

#4 God hates DIVORCE and its ramifications on everyone. Malachi 2:15-16

- **So why does God hate divorce?** Because man compromised God's perfect **MODEL** of marriage. God gave us the perfect **MODEL** of marriage when God create man and woman to fit together perfectly, both physically and emotionally to be a **living illustration of harmony and interdependence**. (see **Ephesians 5:21-33**)
- According to Malachi, divorce is breaking the vow of **FAITHFULNESS**.
- God's design is that marriage be between one man and one woman that lasts a **LIFETIME**. (see **Mark 10:2-9**)
- And, in order to be clear, God also gave us a perfect **MOTIVE** for why marriages need to last a lifetime, for the purpose that they might produce godly children. (See **Deuteronomy 6:5-8**) Divorce is destructive and clearly, Malachi considered the worst result of divorce to be its effect on children.
- Marriage is not a contract because contracts can be nullified, but marriage is a covenant, a decision to follow through no matter what happens. Jesus was pretty clear, **LET NO ONE SEPARATE**.
- Yet, in turn, as Christians, we must be kind and gracious toward those who have divorced. They have enough to deal with without us judging them.

#5 God hates when we JUSTIFY our wrongful actions. Malachi 2:16-17

- The people of Malachi's day got to the point where they could not tell good from evil, right from wrong. Just because society has allowed evil to be called good doesn't mean that we can justify it as Christians.

So what can we learn from Malachi 2?

#1 Remain loyal to your CALLING, live at a higher standard.

#2 Remain loyal to GOD.

- God is concerned more with our obedience than with our sacrifice!

#3 Remain loyal to your SPOUSE and your family.

- Most relationship problems are solvable, but they will take work and sacrifice.
- The grass is greener **WHERE** you water it!

#4 Remain loyal to your MORALS.

- The world lives like they are invincible, without any consequences for their actions, but God says in **Romans 8:23** that **the wages of sin are death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ**.