

OVERRULED: God's Marriage Priority

(Malachi 2:10-15)

Introduction

A) The traditional family structure is under attack in America today. Social engineers, along with others, have attempted to redefine family, marriage, and proper relationships to accommodate the preferences of a minority in society.

B) Because the Biblical standard for the family structure does not accommodate the preferences of some, that standard is deemed irrelevant and outdated.

C) In modern America, many people have a "low" view of marriage, seeing it as unnecessary.

D) But a "low view" of marriage has been one of Satan's tools of destruction for generations.

E) The Hebrews of the 5th century BC had a low view of marriage and God called them out on it through the prophet Malachi.

F) Contextualize **OVERRULED** (the series)

G) Contextualize Malachi 2:10-15.

I. Divine Design For Marriage Relationship

A) As Creator, God designed and defined marriage.

(God created man and knows him better than man himself. Therefore, God knows that the traditional marriage relationship described in the Bible is the best plan or God would have given us another plan.)

B) As Creator, God designed marriage as a covenant relationship (2:14)

(A covenant agreement is entered by two parties that mutually agree on the responsibility of both.)

C) As Creator, God design marriage as more than a personal commitment, but for the Christian is a visual lesson of His commitment and faithfulness to His bride, in the future.

II. Danger of Mixed Marriages

(God designed marriage as a covenantal relationship in which the two individuals become one. That means body, soul, and spirit.)

A) Nature of mixed marriages (v. 11)

B) Problem of mixed marriages (different kingdoms)

C) Prohibition of mixed marriages (v. 12)

III. Damage of Improper Divorces

A) Wrong view of Divorce (v. 14)

B) Termination of the Marriage Covenant

- 1) Sexual immorality
- 2) Unbeliever tells believer to leave (1 Cor. 7)
- 3) Treats treacherously or abandonment (1 Cor. 7)

C) Divorce is a permission, not a requirement even if proper grounds are established.

Conclusion

For students, establish personal standards for a marriage partner before you date another person.

- 1) A believer
- 2) An abiding relationship with Christ.
- 3) Same denomination is preferred.
- 4) No option for divorce.

For singles, some things are worse than being single.

For divorcees, God hate divorce, not divorcees.

For the married, value your marriage highly!

Conclusion