

Recap of 8/21/16 (Malachi 2:10-12):

1. In 2:10-16 Malachi deals with the fourth spiritual failure of the Israelites: disloyalty to God which led them to be disloyal to each other. The key phrase which is repeated five times in this section is “broken faith,” “breaking faith,” and “break faith”). A phrase which means: “to act treacherously,” “to act unfaithfully with respect to a prior agreement or covenant.” (Blaising)
2. They broke faith with God by intermarrying with the pagan women of the land, they broke faith with each other by divorcing their Israelite wives.
3. By marrying the women of the land they were violating God’s specific commands (Ex. 34:11-16; Deut. 7:3,4; Josh. 23:12-13), a problem that dogged Israel’s history and led, in part, to the exile (1 Kings 3:1; 11:1-10; Ezra 9:1-2, 10-12; Nehemiah 13:23-27).
4. “[Israelite men] took foreign wives, who surely would not attract them by their character or faith! And they cast off older wives in a heated rush to find a younger bride, who would be no more to them than a sex object.” (Richards)
5. The New Testament has a similar warning for church age believers in 2 Cor. 6:14-16. Believers should not enter into close partnerships with unbelievers, especially the intimacy of marriage.
6. “... a believer and an unbeliever ought not to get married. Any girl or any boy who flies in the face of God’s very definite and specific instructions in this connection is just flirting with trouble. Believe me, problems will be coming their way. It cannot be otherwise.” (McGee)
7. Guidelines for choosing a marriage partner from **The Compact Guide to the Christian Life:**
 - Believers must marry only believers.
 - Choose someone who is morally and spiritually mature.
 - Can you submit to and love this person?
 - Seek and accept the counsel of your parents and mature believers who know you well.
 - Are you compatible? (in areas such as “finances, employment, personal goals, birth control, childrearing, and so on. Consider age, education, personality traits, hobbies, and family background”).