

### **Recap of 9/18/16 (Malachi 2:15-16):**

1. “Jews were divorcing their wives to marry heathen women. This was disastrous to proper rearing of children.” (Halley)
2. Twice (vs. 15 & vs. 16) Malachi warns them to “guard yourself in your spirit.” Since “spirit” is ambiguous in the original it could refer to the Holy Spirit or to their human spirits. If the human spirit is meant, Malachi was warning them to think about what they were doing, to watch their spiritual life, to guard it. Their spiritual life and worship was being affected by their actions in divorcing their wives (see vs. 13). If the Holy Spirit is meant, he is telling them to align their desires with God’s desires, to desire what God the Holy Spirit desires for their marriages, which is Oneness, a lifelong union (Genesis 2:24).
3. In vs. 16, Malachi equates divorce with violence. Covering a wife with a garment was a picture of protection and love (as with Ruth 3:9). Divorce was a violent rending of that garment. “Divorce is an act of violence, tearing at and destroying [another person].” (Larry Richards)
4. Two mistakes are made concerning divorce:
  - not seeing the seriousness of divorce (something God’s hates, vs. 16)
  - “putting divorce in a category all by itself,” treating it as the unpardonable sin. Proverbs 6:16-19 list seven things God hates (divorce is not in that list)
5. “Divorce often looks like the easy solution to a very unpleasant situation,... However, divorce and its aftermath are difficult for both partners and rarely deliver on the promise of ‘a quick fix.’ It is usually far more painful than advertised. Everyone loses when a marriage turns sour, especially the children involved. Surprisingly, their grandparents struggle too.... Certainly, there are no winners when a marriage begins to unravel.” (Dobson)