

Recap of 9/25/16 (Malachi 2:15-16):

1. “There are times in every good marriage when a husband and wife don’t like each other very much. There are occasions when they feel as though they will never love their partners again. Emotions are like that. They flatten out occasionally like an automobile tire with a nail in the tread. Riding on the rim is a pretty bumpy experience for everyone on board. ...There will be times of conflict and disagreement. There will be periods of emotional blandness when you can generate nothing but a yawn for one another. That’s life, as they say. What will you do, then, when unexpected tornadoes blow through your home, or when the doldrums leave your sails sagging and silent? Will you pack it in and go home to Mama? Will you pout and cry and seek ways to strike back? Or will your commitment hold you steady? These questions must be addressed now, before Satan has an opportunity to put his noose of discouragement around your neck. Set your jaw and clench your fists. Nothing short of death must ever be permitted to come between the two of you. Nothing!” (Dobson)
2. “Solomon’s bride was as refreshing to him as a garden spring. Could your spouse say the same about you? Sometimes the familiarity that accompanies marriage causes us to forget the overwhelming feelings of love and bliss we once shared. Do you refresh your spouse, or are you a burden of complaints, sorrow, and problems? Partners in marriage should continually look for creative ways to restore life and love to each other.” (NLT One-Year Study Bible)
3. Genesis 2:25 is symbolic of the beauty and innocence that accompanied the marriage relationship before the Fall. There was total transparency and total ease. There was no distrust, no fear, no potential for evil or exploitation, no defensiveness and no need to win at all costs. The Fall changed all that, bringing fear, estrangement, and separation into the marriage relationship. As a result of the judgments which accompanied the Fall married couples would experience a battle for control, competition and a desire to dominate instead of the cooperation and companionship which God intended.