

Recap of 10/30/16 (Malachi 2:16):

1. **“Seven Steps to Avoid Divorce” (Gary Collins) and build a lasting marriage.**
 - Make a commitment to stay together and be faithful. (Prov. 2:16,17)**
 - Pray and worship (build on the right foundation, Jesus Christ and the Word of God). (Matthew 7:24-27; Psalm 127:1)**
 - Communicate, even when you don’t feel like it—especially when you don’t feel like it. (1 Peter 3:8-12)**
 - Practice forgiveness (resolve conflicts constructively). (Ephesians 4:32; Matthew 18:21-35)**
 - Help one another, and bear each other’s burdens. Become each other’s best friend. (Eccl. 4:9-12)**
 - Take time away, from pressures of life, from the kids. (Deuteronomy 24:5)**
 - Fight the tendency to drift apart: “Couples often drift apart without anybody noticing. We get busy with our individual activities and forget to keep our spouses involved.”**
2. **The charge made by the people against God is He must delight in the evil-doer. The problem introduced in 2:17 is as one writer says: “The apparent prosperity of the wicked and the suffering of the righteous.”**
3. **“There is a problem that arises frequently in the history of mankind. Man says, ‘Look, I see men who are big sinners and yet they are prosperous. They don’t seem to have problems or troubles like I have—yet I am trying to serve the Lord. Why does God permit that sort of thing?’” (McGee)**
4. **This same struggle is voiced by the David in Psalm 37 and by Asaph in Psalm 73.**