

## RETURN TO ME

### **I DO ... BUT NOW I DON'T**

Malachi 2:10-16

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#### **What does God want us to know about marriage and divorce?**

##### **1. Marriage is a really big deal.**

*Then the LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him." Genesis 2:18*

A. God loves the institution of marriage.

B. God created marriage to be a great blessing.

*For this cause a man shall leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave to his wife; and they shall become one flesh. And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed. Genesis 2:25*

##### **2. Marriage is a really big decision.**

*Because the LORD has been a witness between you and the wife of your youth, against whom you have dealt treacherously, though she is your companion and your wife by covenant. Malachi 1:14*

A. God wants you to make a wise choice.

B. God wants you to make an obedient choice.

*"Judah has dealt treacherously, and an abomination has been committed in Israel and in Jerusalem; for Judah has profaned the sanctuary of the LORD which He loves, and has married the daughter of a foreign god." Malachi 2:11*

*Do not be bound together with unbelievers; for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness? Or what harmony has Christ with Belial, or what has a believer in common with an unbeliever?*

*2 Corinthians 6:14-15*

*Now King Solomon loved many foreign women along with the daughter of Pharaoh: Moabite, Ammonite, Edomite, Sidonian, and Hittite women, from the nations concerning which the LORD had said to the sons of Israel, "You shall not associate with them, neither shall they associate with you, for they will surely turn your heart away after their gods." Solomon held fast to these in love. And he had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines, and his wives turned his heart away. For it came about when Solomon was old, his wives turned his heart away after other gods; and his*

heart was not wholly devoted to the LORD his God, as the heart of David his father had been. 1 Kings 11:1-4

### **3. Marriage is a covenant for life.**

*You ask why he no longer accepts them. It is because he knows you have broken your promise to the wife you married when you were young. She was your partner, and you have broken your promise to her, although you promised before God that you would be faithful to her. Didn't God make you one body and spirit with her? What was his purpose in this? It was that you should have children who are truly God's people. So make sure that none of you breaks his promise to his wife. "I hate divorce," says the LORD God of Israel. "I hate it when one of you does such a cruel thing to his wife. Make sure that you do not break your promise to be faithful to your wife." Malachi 2:14-16 GNB*

A. Divorce breaks your vows.

B. Divorce goes against God's purposes.

*FOR THIS CAUSE A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER, AND SHALL CLEAVE TO HIS WIFE; AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH. This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church. Ephesians 5:31-32*

C. Divorce hurts everyone involved.

“Divorce has been a wrenching experience for every family I have ever seen. Divorce produces broken humans. And broken humans produce more broken homes, that produce more broken humans, that produce more broken humans. It’s a vicious cycle.”

-- Dr. Judith Wallerstein

D. Divorce is permissible in certain instances.

*"And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for immorality, and marries another woman commits adultery." Matthew 19:9*

*But if the husband or wife who isn't a believer insists on leaving, let them go. In such cases the believing husband or wife<sup>[a]</sup> is no longer bound to the other, for God has called you<sup>[b]</sup> to live in peace. 1 Corinthians 7:15 NLT*

E. Divorce is not the unpardonable sin.

*If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:9*

**Will you give your marriage to the Lord and do it His way?**