
Study Resources:

	Bible Project Overview Video		Free commentary with notes on the background, context, etc.
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Big Idea: Our unfaithfulness to God, will open the doorway for unfaithfulness with others.

- 1st takeaway: Unfaithfulness to God can be evident in broken relationships.
- 2nd takeaway: Unfaithfulness to God disregards God's standards.
- 3rd takeaway: Unfaithfulness to God devalues the marriage covenant.

Read

Read this study's text out loud. Malachi was meant to be read aloud in front of a group of people. By reading it aloud, we can hear the rhythm and flow of the prophecy.

Head

1. Compare the second half of Malachi 2:10 with Jesus' words in John 13:34. For Israel, explain how their conduct within the covenant community was to be a light to the nations (Read Deut. 7:7). For the church, how can loving one another prove or demonstrate to the world, as Jesus said, that we are his followers? Share an experience.
2. Read Deut. 7:1-4 about Moses prohibiting certain marriages. How does this warning against interfaith marriages carry over into the New Testament with the warning not to be "unequally yoked?" (2 Cor. 6:14-16). Explain the analogy of the mismatched yoke. How does it appear in relationships. What other areas of life can we apply this concept?
3. In 2:16 it says, "For I hate divorce!" says the LORD, the God of Israel." What does divorce say about the gospel of Jesus? How does this passage relate to Ephesians 5:22-32? How should we respond to divorce in the culture? In the church? How would you counsel a Christian considering divorce? What about a non-Christian?

Heart

4. Consider a blind spot where you tend to disregard God's covenant ways and standards and begin to find yourself walking unfaithfully before the Lord. In these moments, what spiritual practices or approaches do you use to realign your heart toward faithfulness and loyalty to the Lord?

Hands

5. The main idea: **"Our unfaithfulness to God will open the doorway to be unfaithful with others."** The weakening of your **vertical** relationship with God can start to affect your **horizontal** relationships. What's one **practical step** you can take this week to apply Malachi's call for relational commitment and minimize "fractures, friction, or unforgiveness" with another believer, family member, coworker, etc.?
6. How can our church corporately love our neighbors in such a way that it will not only give God glory, but allow others to become curious about Christ?