

HONORING - MARRIAGE -

MALACHI 2:11-16

Big Idea:

Marriage is about the gospel, godly offspring, and the glory of God.

1.) Marriage exists for the **GOSPEL**

- God instituted marriage to image forth the eternal covenant relationship between Christ and His bride, the church (Eph. 5:31-32).
- Marriage is profoundly and primarily **SPIRITUAL**
- When God's plan for marriage is distorted, God's plan to redeem the world in Christ is obscured and ignored.
- When marriages operate according to biblical principles, the gospel shines brightly through them.

2.) Marriage exists for the **GLORY OF GOD**

- The dangers of ungodly intermarriage are well documented in Scripture.
- Commands against intermarriage have nothing to do with skin color or nationality, but worldview and purpose (Deut. 7:3-4).
- Interfaith marriage reveals competing loyalties among people whose devotion to God ought to be undivided and undisputed.
- It is hard get anywhere in life when you are tied to someone going in the opposite direction.
- As a rule, believers in Christ should only **MARRY** other believers in Christ.
- God can turn any unbalanced marriage around and use the believing spouse to bring the unbelieving partner to salvation (1 Peter 3:1-2).

-- Interfaith marriage totally misses the purpose for which God has designed and instituted marriage.

3.) Marriage exists for **GODLY OFFSPRING**

-- God established the **FAMILY** to be the primary context in which spiritual instruction would pass from one generation to the next (Deuteronomy 6:4-9, Ephesians 6:4).

-- *Is your marriage and your family geared around the primary purpose of developing lifelong disciples of Jesus Christ?*

-- A low view of marriage steers children away from God and lessens the likelihood that they will live for the Lord.

Application

Philosophical Application

-- It is impossible to honor the gospel fully without also honoring **MARRIAGE** which God ordained as an image of it on earth.

Political Application

-- The more that God's design for marriage is corrupted, the more the gospel gets confused and children become casualties.

Personal Application

-- Make every effort to make your **HOME** a place where the gospel shines through marriage and disciples of Jesus Christ are being made.

-- Marriage is a picture of the gospel created for the glory of God and the growth of godly offspring.