



“...you have erred and covered the altar with tears, yet the LORD does not listen to your prayer nor does He regard your offerings... and yet you say, “Why?” “Because the LORD has been a witness as you treated the wife of your youth, the wife of your covenant, with treachery.” Malachi 2:11 – 16

Covenant is a serious matter! Serious, for it speaks of the unfailing and uncompromising nature of God. The marriage covenant – and many couples fail to understand this – is not just an insignificant agreement or contract made with “fingers-crossed” in hopes that everything will work out. A covenant enables the marriage to be sustainable in the face of adversity, difficulties, and selfishness. It is not abandoned upon a whim or change of heart or mind. It is a lifelong commitment that provides security to husband and wife, children and family, neighborhoods and nations!

Marriage is a three party covenant where the Lord is not merely a witness to the vows taken but He is an active participant. “A threefold cord is not easily broken.” (Ecclesiastes 4:12).

“... you husbands must give honour to your wives. Trust her with understanding as you live together. She may be weaker than you are, but she is your equal partner in God’s gift of new life. If you don’t treat her as you should, your prayers will not be heard.” (1 Peter 3:7 NLT).

Some final thoughts to help distinguish a covenant from a contract – a covenant is made by blood. A contract is made in ink. A covenant is abased upon promises. A contract is based upon expectations. The strength of a covenant is based upon the character and ability of the persons cutting the covenant. The strength of a contract is based upon the force of law.

What of your prayer life? Has it been affected by your relationship with your spouse? Beyond marriage, what of those other relationships with whom you are in some sort of covenant relationship? How are things between you and your parents? ...friends? ...and church? Selah.

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