

**Malachi #3**  
**Seven questions of the backslider**  
**WHY ARE MY PRAYERS NOT ANSWERED?**

Mal. 2 <sup>10</sup> Have we not all one Father? Did not one God create us? Why do we profane the covenant of our fathers by breaking faith with one another?

<sup>11</sup> Judah has broken faith. A detestable thing has been committed in Israel and in Jerusalem: Judah has desecrated the sanctuary the Lord loves, by marrying the daughter of a foreign god. <sup>12</sup> As for the man who does this, whoever he may be, may the Lord cut him off from the tents of Jacob—even though he brings offerings to the Lord Almighty.

<sup>13</sup> Another thing you do: You flood the Lord's altar with tears. You weep and wail because he no longer pays attention to your offerings or accepts them with pleasure from your hands. <sup>14</sup> You ask, "Why?" It is because the Lord is acting as the witness between you and the wife of your youth, because you have broken faith with her, though she is your partner, the wife of your marriage covenant.

<sup>15</sup> Has not the Lord made them one? In flesh and spirit they are his. And why one? Because he was seeking godly offspring. So guard yourself in your spirit, and do not break faith with the wife of your youth.

<sup>16</sup> "I hate divorce," says the Lord God of Israel, "and I hate a man's covering himself with violence as well as with his garment," says the Lord Almighty.

So guard yourself in your spirit, and do not break faith. NIV

Men, ever wonder why prayers aren't answered when you have earnestly sought God? Malachi may have the answer.

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*c Or But the one who is our father did not do this, not as long as life remained in him. And what was he seeking? An offspring from God*

The men of that day had.....

## **I. Irresponsible Relationships**

### **A. Marriage had lost its sacredness.**

1. Thus we have people “openly living together”.
2. Friends with “benefits”

### **B. They were marrying unbelievers v 11**

Christianity is continued not only through conversion and discipleship, but marriage.

As father's we are to protect the Christian heritage.

### **B. They were getting divorces. v 14, 16**

1. They were compartmentalizing their spirituality.
2. The only things that was sacred was prayer at the temple.
3. They were allowing marriage to be just a civil contract instead of a covenant. Permanence did not matter.

Not only were they were irresponsible in relationships but also had...

## **II. Improper responses**

### **A. They soaked the altar with tears but never obeyed the word of the Lord.**

### **B. Our prayers are tied to our relationship with our spouse.**

1Peter 3<sup>7</sup> Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and **treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs** with you of the gracious gift of life, **so that nothing will hinder your prayers.**

It is hard to get God to answer when we are not right with each other. **The wife is a “partner” not a possession or property.**

Happy wife, happy life!

### **III. Intended rewards coming from marriage**

#### **A. The Lord makes us one in marriage.**

<sup>15</sup> Has not the Lord made them one?

#### **B. He is seeking godly influence in the world by strong family ties.**

v 15... And why one? Because he was seeking godly offspring

#### **C. The reward of covenant is gaining a “partner”.**