

“The Call to Remain Loyal in our Relationships” 1/28/18

Malachi 2:10-16

Sermon Series- “*Malachi- Overcoming Spiritual Indifference and Complacency*”

Big Idea- As God’s chosen people in this world, we need to maintain the highest levels of loyalty in our relationships as we seek to shine as lights in this world (Matt 5:16).

LESSON 1- God holds us accountable for loyalty in our spiritual FAMILY Vv. 10-12

QUOTE #1 **At least 59 ONE ANOTHERs in the Bible**

- A. As a family with God as our Creator and Father we should be LOYAL
(1 Cor 12:12-one; James 3:8-12- gossip; 1 Thess 4:3-9; Matt 5:23-25-initiative)
- B. As a family we are to trust that God our Father will PROVIDE
(God provides a godly spouse- 1 Corinthians 7:10-15; **2 Corinthians 6:11-18**)
- C. As a family, we should help each other not go through the MOTIONS
(Titus 1:16; Matt 15:8; Rev 3:16; Gal 6:1-2; 1 Cor 10:12-13)

Ways in which we can demonstrate loyalty: 1) Pray for one another; 2) Speak only good about one another; 3) Don’t judge each other (Matt 7:1-4); 4) Judge each other (1 Cor 5:9-13); 5) Defend each other’s reputation; 6) Accountability (Prov 27:6, 17); 7) Give others the benefit of the doubt (1 Cor 13:7); 8) Don’t judge motives which only God knows (1 Cor 4:1-5)

Going *God wants us to be loyal and faithful to each other and to hold each other deeper accountable in a spirit of love and gentleness!*

LESSON 2- God holds us accountable for loyalty in our MARRIAGES Vv. 13-16

- A. Their marital blessings were removed because of their DISLOYALTY
(2 Corinthians 7:10; 1 Peter 1:15-16; 1 Peter 3:8)
- B. Their marital union was created by God to produce godly CHILDREN
(Genesis 2:24; 1:28; 9:1, 7; 1 Corinthians 7:14- children are sanctified)
- C. Their marital union is a covenant and God hates DIVORCE
(Malachi 2:16; Matthew 19:1-10; Luke 17:1-4; 1 Peter 3:1-8; Eph 5:21-32)

NOT UNPARDONABLE SIN

SCREWTAPE QUOTES #18 written in 1940s

Going *God wants us to be different than the world and to show them that deeper with the power of the Holy Spirit we can stay loyal!*

QUOTE #1

A woman finds herself pregnant and wants to abort, or a man feels bogged down by commitments to job, spouse and children, and wants out. A person's aging parents are interfering with his pleasures, and he wants someone to take them off his hands. A man is tired of making a living and desires relief from his commitments. How we, as a society and as individuals, view the decisions made about fulfilling these desires is the crux of the problem.

(Daniel Yankelovich, *New Rules*, 1981, p. 248)

SCREWTAPE QUOTE- LETTER #18

We have done this through the poets and novelists by persuading the humans that a curious, and usually short-lived, emotional experience which they call "being in love" is the only respectable ground for marriage; that marriage can, and ought to, render this excitement permanent; and that a marriage which does not do so is no longer binding.

They regard the intention of loyalty to a partnership for mutual help, for the preservation of chastity, and for the transmission of life, as something lower than a storm of emotion. (Counselors share "in love" lasts 6-18 months)