



Embrace God's Righteous Standards



Malachi's message in 2:10 – 3:6

**Exert great care in
obeying and upholding
God's righteous standards.**



Outline of Malachi

1:1-2:9

Attitudes related to **God's person**

2:10 – 3:6

Attitudes related to **God's righteous standards**

3:7 – 4:6

Attitudes related to **God's word**



Attitudes related to God's righteous standards

I. Rejecting God's standards (2:10-16).



Divorce allowed in the NT for two reasons:

- Jesus allowed divorce when one spouse is involved in immorality (Mt 5:32; 19:3-12).
- Paul allowed it when an unbelieving spouse left their believing spouse (1 Cor 7:10-16).



“

Has not the one God made and sustained for us the spirit of life? And what does he desire? Godly offspring. So take heed to yourselves, and let none be faithless to the wife of his youth.

”

Malachi 2:15a (Revised Standard Version)



“Companion”

- ▶ *The word described a seam or joint in building construction, that is, a permanent bond.*
- ▶ *A man's wife is his lifelong partner in the covenant before God.*
- ▶ *The 3 terms for “wife” emphasize the intimate oneness, the close bond of fellowship that must exist between husband and wife.*



Malachi 2:16a

NASB

“For I hate divorce,” says the LORD, the God of Israel, “and him who covers his garment with wrong,” says the LORD of hosts.

ESV

“For the man who does not love his wife but divorces her, says the LORD, the God of Israel, covers his garment with violence, says the LORD of hosts.”



“Take heed”

- *Meticulously obeying, keeping God’s word, being careful to obey*
- *More than mental acceptance*
- *Showing great care in obeying God’s standards*
- *“Careful obedience”*



Attitudes related to God's righteous standards

- I. Rejecting God's standards (2:10-16).**
- II. Redefining God's righteousness (2:17-3:6).**