

**"Married to the Right Wife for Life"  
Malachi 2:10-16**

**Third Dispute: 2:10-16**

**The Right Wife . . . (vss. 10-12)**

**Problem:** Mixed marriages a big problem at this time, Ezra 9:1-6,10, Neh. 13:30, 23-31. Forbidden: Ex. 34:15, 16, Dt. 7:3,4. Reason was NOT biological but theological! NT: 2 Cor. 6:14-18.

**Consequences:** ugly terms: *treacherous* (2x), *profane* (2x, recall 1:12), and *abomination*, Vs. 12 = a prayer of excommunication from the nation (Ex. 12:15,19). Note mixed marriage is not charged w/ causing divorce in 13-16, but is actually the result of it. A unique reversal is mandated in Ezra 10:3f.. Other consequences?

**. . . For Life (13-16)**

**Problem:** Divorce was allowed by Moses (Dt. 22,24) but limited by Jesus (Mtt. 5:31-32, 19:3-12). *Treacherous* (3x more, 5x total). In this context divorce is linked w/mixed marriages, as divorce is being used by some to discard Jewish spouses for foreigners.

**Consequences:** ugly terms: *treacherous against God and wife* (3x).  
+Such divorce damages worship (vs. 13). Weeping here is not by wives but sorrow over crop losses, as no divine favor exists because of divorces. Compare this to I Pt. 3:7.  
+Such divorce is heartless (14, "wife of youth / companion")  
+Such divorce is senseless (15 = real translational problem w/many options). If you want godly offspring, stick w/your wife of the same faith.  
+Such divorce God *hates* (*sane* = emotional hatred, unlike hatred of 1:3. It's typically used of foes / enemies and in God's response to idols, hypocrisy, etc.)  
+*Garment covered w/violence* (KJV lit.). Divorce is damaging!  
+Other consequences?

**MY CHOICE:** Will I only marry a believer? Will I do all I can to stay married?