



## CELEBRATING MARRIAGE AND FAMILY "God Is Seeking Godly Offspring" Malachi 2:15

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Scripture clearly teaches that marriage and the resultant establishment of families are divine creation principles, and establishing families places great emphasis on the rearing of children by their parents. The prophet Malachi powerfully spoke to these issues.

### **I. Some Fundamental Reminders. v. 2:10**

- A. We start with God and His self revelation, not Man and his speculation.
- B. Our God is One. Deuteronomy 6:4 – cf. "foreign gods" and the confusion they bring.
- C. Our God is One Who "created" – thus the "commonality" of the human race.
- D. Our God is One Who is Father – from Whom and for Whom we live. 1 Corinthians 8:6
  - 1. From Him came Israel's redemption from Egypt and our redemption "in Christ."
  - 2. For Him Israel was called to live in Covenant as are we "in Christ."
- E. Our God makes man and wife one – in flesh and in spirit. v. 15
  - 1. In spirit – He institutes a marital covenant – and acts as witness. v. 14
  - 2. In flesh – He ordains sexuality for fulfillment of covenant one-ness.
- F. Our God looks for the one-ness of man and wife to produce "godly offspring."
  - 1. Parents who embrace Covenant principles aspire to "godly offspring."
  - 2. Parents with other priorities have other aspirations for their children.

### **II. Some Fundamental Realities.**

- A. "Godly offspring" – or "God's kids" equals children of the Covenant.
- B. There's a link between stable marriages and "godly offspring."
  - 1. When parents don't renege on covenants, children are secure. v. 10
  - 2. When parents are faithful, children understand faithfulness. v. 10
- C. There's a cause and effect when parents believe deeply and teach carefully.
  - 1. The content – "The Lord our God, the Lord is One." Deuteronomy 6:4
  - 2. The consequences – "Love the Lord your God...." Deuteronomy 6:5
  - 3. The concern – "Impress them upon your children...." Deuteronomy 6:7f
- D. There's a connection between consistent living and "godly offspring." v. 15 f

NOTE: "Because he was seeking godly offspring. SO..."

- So what? – "Guard yourself in your spirit."
- So what else? – "Do not break faith."

**Points to ponder:** Parents are not responsible for their children's spiritual choices. They are responsible for giving them the opportunity to choose wisely and intelligently.