



Support Your Local Marriage!

Malachi 2:16 “The man who hates and divorces his wife,” says the LORD, the God of Israel, “does violence to the one he should protect,” says the LORD Almighty. So be on your guard, and do not be unfaithful.

Every one of us can look in the Bible and find something that makes us feel condemned before God. Those of us who have experienced a divorce know that this is a painful experience, and this word from God helps explain why that is so. This is just one of the places where the Bible makes it clear that God’s good will for our lives is that married couples should stay married and not seek divorce.

When those who are married commit to being faithful to their spouse, both in their actions and in spirit, they discover the many blessings that God intends us to have from marriage. But there are many temptations around married people that distract them, making them feel as if there is no hope for their marriage and perhaps also tempting them with ideas that life might be better if they were out of their marriage. So Malachi warns, “Be on your guard.”

As in all things, we should pray for each other. Married people can pray for themselves that God will inspire them with a positive and hopeful outlook for their marriage. Both married and unmarried people can pray for everyone who is married that God will bless them with happiness and protect them from temptations.

But what about people who are already divorced? The Bible teaches that while divorce is not what God wants for us, it still sometimes happens because of sin in the world (Matthew 19, for example). But it doesn’t matter if someone chose divorce or had it imposed on them by an unfaithful spouse. In any case, we can always trust in God’s mercy. God is always willing to forgive us and to continue blessing us.

Divorce is just like any other sin: There will be consequences that may harm us in this world, but Jesus died so that sin does not have to separate us from God’s love. Divorced people will still be blessed by God, and those who have healed from a divorce may also be blessed by another chance to benefit from the blessings of a faithful marriage. So, as we pray for faithfulness for the married, let us also pray for healing and blessings on those who have experienced divorce.

Malachi 2:16 is like any other part of God’s law. It teaches us about God’s good will for our lives, so we should strive to live according to His good will. But it also shows us our need for our Savior. Thank God that for Jesus’ sake, we do not have to be slaves to sin but instead can live abundant lives and renew our hope, even as we renew our commitment to be faithful in marriage, or to support those who are married.