

COLLISION

Steering Clear of Collisions in Marriage: Covenant & Change

Ephesians 5:31-32; Genesis 2:24; Malachi 2:10, 13-16

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When we operate within the parameters of God, we can steer clear of relational collisions.

Malachi 2:16, “I hate divorce,’ says the LORD God...” (NIV)

Why?

Malachi 2:10, 13-14, “10 Why do we profane the covenant of our fathers by breaking faith with one another? 13 Another thing you do: You flood the LORD’s altar with tears. You weep and wail because he no longer pays attention to your offerings or accepts them with pleasure from your hands. 14 You ask, ‘Why?’ It is because the LORD is acting as the witness between you and the wife of your youth, because you have broken faith with her, though she is your partner, the wife of your marriage covenant.” (NIV)

Marriage is a covenant.

Contract: Requirements – an arrangement between parties where the requirements of an issue are agreed upon.

Covenant: Relationships – a contractual arrangement between parties that are tied together by relationships.

Covenants in the Bible always included the LORD (*Yahweh*).

The covenant of marriage involves: husband, wife, and God.

When I break faith with my spouse it hurts my relationship with God. (1 Peter 3:7)

Because marriage is a covenant that God establishes, only God can break it.

Matthew 19:4-6, 9, “4 ‘Haven’t you read,’ he replied, ‘that at the beginning the Creator “made them male and female,” 5 and said, “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh”? 6 So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.... 9 I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife....and marries another woman commits adultery.” (NIV)

Ephesians 5:31-32, “31 ‘For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.’ 32 This is a profound mystery – but I am talking about Christ and the church.” (NIV)

Genesis 2:24, “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.” (NIV)

Marriage is a covenant of:

- **Loyalty:** “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife”
- **Intimacy:** “and they will become one flesh”

God allows divorce (breaking the marriage covenant) when the marriage covenant is violated.

- Abandonment violates loyalty. (1 Corinthians 7:12-15)
- Adultery violates intimacy. (Matthew 19:7-9)

Because relational hurts and hardness of heart tend to skew perspectives and judgments, a person considering divorce needs to seek godly counsel.

We are all imperfect, incomplete, and incompatible. This is why we need Jesus.

I cannot change my spouse, but I can change myself so help me God.

To experience the covenant of marriage, it requires change. Two cannot become one unless both are willing to change.

Genesis 2:24, “...a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife in such a way that the two become one person.” (TLB)

Malachi 2:15-16, “15 Has not the LORD made them one? In flesh and spirit they are his.... So guard yourself in your spirit, and do not break faith with the wife of your youth. 16 ‘I hate divorce,’ says the LORD God.... So guard yourself in your spirit, and do not break faith.” (NIV)

“body” – physical attraction

“soul” – psychological attraction

“spirit” – spiritual attraction

Our bodies and souls are fallen and fail, but our spirits can transform a marriage. A growing faith will change us so we can become one.

I will commit to my marriage covenant and to change.