

Let's Try Living Together First

FAIL: Life Strategies that Fail Us #5 – Pastor Gary Combs – July 6, 2014 – Malachi 2:10-15

Malachi 2:10-15 (ESV) ¹⁰Have we not all one Father? Has not one God created us? Why then are we faithless to one another, profaning the covenant of our fathers? ¹¹Judah has been faithless, and abomination has been committed in Israel and in Jerusalem. For Judah has profaned the sanctuary of the Lord, which he loves, and has married the daughter of a foreign god. ¹²May the Lord cut off from the tents of Jacob, any descendant of the man who does this, who brings an offering to the Lord of hosts! ¹³And this second thing you do. You cover the Lord's altar with tears, with weeping and groaning because he no longer regards the offering or accepts it with favor from your hand. ¹⁴But you say, "Why does he not?" Because the Lord was witness between you and the wife of your youth, to whom you have been faithless, though she is your companion and your wife by covenant. ¹⁵Did he not make them one, with a portion of the Spirit in their union? And what was the one God seeking? Godly offspring. So guard yourselves in your spirit, and let none of you be faithless to the wife of your youth.

FOUR WORDS FOR EXPERIENCING GOD'S BLESSING IN MARRIAGE:

1. _____ . Recognize God's design.

Genesis 1:27-28 (ESV) So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it..."

Genesis 18:25 (ESV) ...So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. Then the man said, "This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man." Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

2. _____ . Understand God's intent.

Hebrews 9:15 (NLT) That is why he is the one who mediates a new covenant between God and people, so that all who are called can receive the eternal inheritance God has promised them. For Christ died to set them free from the penalty of the sins they had committed under that first covenant.

Luke 22:19-20 (ESV) And he took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood."

3. _____ . Enjoy God's gift.

Ecclesiastes 9:9 (CEV) Life is short, and you love your wife, so enjoy being with her. This is what you are supposed to do as you struggle through life on this earth.

Proverbs 18:22 (CEV) A man's greatest treasure is his wife— she is a gift from the Lord.

Proverbs 5:18-19 (NLT) Let your wife be a fountain of blessing for you. Rejoice in the wife of your youth. She is a loving deer, a graceful doe. Let her breasts satisfy you always. May you always be captivated by her love.

Revelation 19:6-9 (ESV) ...Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb."

4. _____ . Mirror God's faithfulness.

Ephesians 5:28-33 (ESV) ..."Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.

Hebrews 13:5 (ESV)... "I will never leave you nor forsake you."

Matthew 28:20 (ESV) ...And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."