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Question God's Love

•**Malachi 1:2-5**
"I have loved you," says the Lord.
But you say, "How hast Thou loved us?"

When we question God's love, we betray a lack of confidence in God's goodness. We blame God for our troubles and develop a critical spirit.

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Despise God's Authority

•**Malachi 1:6**
"A son honors his father, and a servant his master. Then if I am a father, where is My honor? And if I am a master, where is My respect?"
But you say, "How have we despised Thy name?"

When we despise God's authority, we reject any reverential honor to God and instead become arrogant and self-righteous.

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Profane God's Worship

•**Malachi 1:7-2:9**
"You are presenting defiled food upon My altar."
But you say, "How have we defiled Thee?"
You also say, "My, how tiresome it is!"

When we profane God's worship, we fool ourselves to think that what was unacceptable is now acceptable and thus violate any sense of propriety before God.

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Break God's Covenants

•**Malachi 2:10-16**
"Judah has profaned the sanctuary of the LORD which He loves, and has married the daughter of a foreign god."
Yet you say, "For what reason?"

When we break a covenant with God, we focus on our self interests and divorce ourselves from other serious obligations. Families are ruined.

Distort God's Standards

•**Malachi 2:17-3:6**
"You have wearied the Lord with your words."
Yet you say, "Everyone who does evil is good in the sight of the LORD, and He delights in them," or, "where is the God of justice?"

When we distort God's standards, we defame God's righteousness by embracing and justifying evil.

OVERVIEW OF MALACHI

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Reject God's Warnings

•**Malachi 3:7**
"Return to Me, and I will return to you," says the Lord of hosts.
But you say, "How shall we return?"

When we reject God's warnings, we elevate our foolishness and despise His wisdom.

Steal God's Offerings

•**Malachi 3:8-12**
"Will a man rob God? Yet you are robbing Me!"
But you say, "How have we robbed Thee?"

When we steal God's offerings, we satisfy our covetousness rather than affirming God's goodness.

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Scorn God's Service

•**Malachi 3:13-4:6**
"Your words have been arrogant against Me," says the Lord.
But you say, "What have we spoken against Thee?"

When we scorn God's service, we cover up our idolatrous behavior by stripping God of His holy majesty.

OF SPIRITUAL VALUES



A LIFE
CLOSE
TO
GOD

How long will we wait before we understand the essence of a Christian life is one which lives close to God, close enough to hear His heartbeat and adopt His ways into our lives?

SIGNS OF RENEWAL



Love God
Renews a trusting relationship with your Lord

•**Malachi 1:2-5**
Confidence of God's love assures us of a close relationship with God. Our trust in Him grows as we see His good will exercised in and through our lives (1:5).

Honor God
Correctly resets our view of God

•**Malachi 1:6**
When we properly honor God, His person and will become sacred and holy. This fear of God becomes the backbone of all our relationships and activities.

Sanctify God
Obedience becomes relevant and desired

•**Malachi 1:7-2:9**
By properly fearing God, we are concerned with the details of obedience. Our conscience is awakened and finds a renewed interest in a life of peace with God and an increased knowledge of His Word (2:5-7).

Loyal to God
Increased desire to keep our commitments

•**Malachi 2:10-16**
Our perception of the world changes when we highly value the commitments and promises that we have made before God. Responsible and consistent behavior to those around us such as our spouses initiates maturity.

Delight in God's Truth
Our standards are fixed upon the nature of God

•**Malachi 2:17-3:6**
Repentance from our sinful behavior takes the place of excuses. God's ways become our ways. We embrace the ways and knowledge of God and modify our standards accordingly (3:1).

Return to God
Our hopes are built on our humble return to Him

•**Malachi 3:7**
We return to God just as we are. He becomes our source of hope and life. He is the one who promises closeness as we draw close to Him (3:7).

Live Honestly before God
Faith rather than covetousness orientates our lives

•**Malachi 3:8-12**
When we get honest with God, we affirm we will not steal from Him. As we live by faith in His promises rather than by stealing, those around us will acknowledge God's hand upon our lives (3:12).

Serve God
Our service for God is our joy of life.

•**Malachi 3:13-4:6**
Our fear of the Lord initiates a whole new sphere of life dedicated to serving God. Because His hand of healing is upon our lives, we live in great expectation of God's work in our lives. His heart forms the plans of our revived lives (3:16).

OVERVIEW OF MALACHI