4Ws BE FAITHFUL IN OUR RELATIONSHIPS

November 15, 2026

WORSHIP

Suggested worship songs: Great Is Thy, Faithfulness, Praise Yahweh, Great In Power, Adlaw-Adlaw, Jesus Paid It All, Nothing But The Blood, Great Are You Lord

WELCOME

If you could spend an entire day with anyone in the world (past or present), who would it be and what would you do together?

WORD

Malachi 2:16

For I hate divorce," says the Lord, the God of Israel, "and him who covers his garment with wrong," says the Lord of hosts. "So take heed to your spirit, that you do not deal treacherously."

Our focus in last Sunday's message was **Be Faithful in Our Relationships**. We have been discussing the book of Malachi. Why is being faithful in our relationships so important? There are three important relationships we must focus on: our relationship with God, our relationship with our family, and our relationships with others.

Matt. 25:21 reminds us that salvation is a free gift, but what we do after being saved will impact our eternity. Some of us will hear, "Well done, good and faithful slave," but some of us will not. That is why it is important to be faithful, not just in the big things but even in the small things. Relationships are based on trust.

We heard about various myths of spirituality:

1. *Myth of Knowledge (1 Cor. 8:1)*
2. *Myth of Right Doctrine (Rev. 2:2)*
3. *Myth of Accomplishments (2 Chron. 26:16-20)*
4. *Myth of Activities (Matt. 6:1)*
5. *Myth of Positions (Luke 11:43)*
6. *Myth of Zealousness (Rom. 10:2)*

Christlikeness is the measure of true maturity and spirituality. We must become more Christlike in our relationships. **Malachi 2:10-11** presents the test of relationships. Our faithfulness to God is revealed in how faithfully we honor our commitments to others, especially our spouse. If we do not treat God properly, we will treat others improperly.

In **Ephesians 5-6**, Paul presents how spirituality is tested in our relationships: first, with God (*vv. 15-20*); with our spouse (*vv. 22-23*); with our children (*6:1-4*); and with our employers and employees (*Eph. 6:5-9*). In **Eph. 6:6-8**, for example, Paul reminds workers to work hard for the Lord and render service "as to the Lord." Paul also wrote that whatever good thing we do, we will receive a reward from the Lord, the ultimate Rewarder.

The problem presented in **Malachi 2:11-12** was that the people were profaning the sanctuary of the LORD, not offering their best to God, and not treating worship as sacred. They were also marrying people of different faiths. This shows that our love life becomes compromised when our relationship with God is not right. Faithfulness to God means being obedient in our love life. Our love for God must always be supreme in our relationships.

Beware of idolatry: loving people or things more than we love God. Any relationship that hinders your growth or draws you away from God is a red flag. God's commands were clear in **Deut. 7:3-4**, forbidding intermarriage with people from the nations they would conquer. Joshua reminded his people (*Josh. 23:11-13*) to love the LORD their God and forbade them from marrying pagans in the land. Such relationships would become a snare and a trap for them. When you are faithful to God, you will obey Him!

Solomon failed in this regard (*1 Kings 11:1-2*). He held fast to foreign women in love. Even with his great wisdom, Solomon missed out on this command. **1 Kings 11:4** tells us that when he was old, his wives turned his heart away after other gods. When he experienced prosperity, comfort, and other blessings, Solomon's heart became unguarded. Paul also wrote in **2 Cor. 6:14** a warning against being bound together with unbelievers.

Mal. 2:13-14 raises another issue: the people covered the altar with tears because God no longer regarded or accepted their offerings with favor, yet they were not correcting their lives according to the ways of God. Our relationship with God is the main relationship we must maintain. God had seen that they had dealt treacherously, even in their marriages. God cares about how we treat our family members. External actions are rejected, as illustrated in **Amos 5:21-24**. God will not accept our worship unless we allow justice and righteousness to reign in our lives.

1 Peter 3:7 reminds husbands to live with their wives in an UNDERSTANDING way: to understand their worries and fears and care for them properly, recognizing that they are someone weaker (very sensitive and easily broken), so that **"your prayers will not be hindered."** We cannot separate our domestic family life from our spiritual life. We must handle our relationships properly, especially with our family members!

Malachi 2:15 is a challenging verse to interpret. It has to do with legacy. According to some, this verse refers to Adam and Eve, who were commanded to produce children, as indicated by the phrase "seeking godly offspring." For others, it is about Abraham creating a godly legacy. The following verse (*v. 16*) clarifies the passage when God says, "I HATE DIVORCE."

To guard our spirit against divorce, we must make up our minds to be married for life. **Mark 10:2, 6-12** discusses why God is against divorce or the dissolution of marriage. This is the standard set by God, and we must submit to it.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer said, "The family is the first institution God established on earth, and it remains the primary setting where love, forgiveness, and faith are learned."

In the family, particularly in the relationship between husband and wife, Scripture reminds us that children are blessings and that we must do what we can to help them know God deeply (*Psalm 127:3; Ps. 78:7-8*).

Deut. 6:4-7 speaks of the discipleship of children. To pass on a godly legacy, we must model this kind of love for God, with all our heart, soul, and mind. We need to teach this to our children intentionally. When children love God, they will obey Him and stay on the right course. If they do not love God, everything becomes a problem!

Children are very important. As James Dobson wrote, "Children are not casual guests in our home. They have been loaned to us temporarily for the purpose of loving them and instilling a foundation of values on which their future lives will be built."

Everything begins at home. Family is the foundation of our

society. God designed the family in His perfect wisdom. The family is the foundation where faith is nurtured and character is forged. It is where godly values are taught, modeled, and internalized. It is where the knowledge of God is anchored and where a godly legacy is passed on from generation to generation.

This is not about business, money, riches, or possessions. Temporal things cannot really be passed on forever; we are bound to lose these things. We will all leave a lasting legacy. The question is: What kind of legacy will we leave behind?

To pass on a godly legacy, we must practice MRI: Modeling, Relationship, and Intentionality.

We looked at the example of the family of the Rechabites (*Jer. 35:8*), a family that appears in Scripture through the years. In 1840, a certain Rev. Joseph Wolf even encountered some Rechabites in Yemen! The power of legacy shows us that everything we do today impacts the future generations that will follow.

We must be faithful to God and to the relationships He has entrusted to us, so that we can impact lives and bring others closer to God!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

(Leaders: Please choose questions that are appropriate to the level of spiritual maturity of your members)

1. Why are relationships important to God, and what do they reveal about our spirituality?
2. How can you honor God in your relationships, especially with your family?
3. How can you build a spiritual legacy that impacts future generations?

WORKS

PRAY CARE SHARE IN ACTION

Pray: Ask God to help you remain faithful to Him and demonstrate Christlike character in all your relationships. Care: Be intentional in showing love and appreciation to your family and the people God has entrusted to you. Share: Pass on a godly legacy by sharing God's Word, modeling Christlikeness, and intentionally discipling someone.

WEEKLY PRAYER POINTS

I. Thanksgiving

- Worship God for who He is, what He has done, and what He will do in our lives.

II. Country and the World

- Upright and moral governance of public servants; repentance and salvation for government leaders and citizens for a Christ-centered Philippines.
- For legislators to promote and support bills and laws aligned with God's Word.
- For the Philippines as it hosts the 49th ASEAN Summit on November 16–18: pray for wisdom for the Philippines and ASEAN leaders, peaceful and fruitful discussions, regional cooperation, and safety for all delegates, residents, and security personnel.
- War in Ukraine to end, loss of lives prevented.
- For the rest of the Israeli hostages to be restored to their families safely. For Israel's war with terrorists to end according to God's purpose and for His glory.
- For the civil war in Syria to end peacefully, protection for Christians and other minorities, and freedom from oppression for Syrians. Pray for the gospel to spread rapidly throughout the country.
- Pray for Sudan and persecuted Christians there; earnestly seek God's intervention to stop the bloodshed. Pray for freedom from oppression, that God's word and His people bring them comfort and hope.
- Please continue to pray for our brothers and sisters in Christ affected by the disaster in Nepal, especially those who remain missing. Pray that they will be found safely, and that God will strengthen and comfort their families. May the Lord provide for their needs and give them hope and courage as they face the days ahead.

III. Church

- That CCF Members would honor and love God, and make disciples
- For elders, pastors, DLeaders, and families to become holy, humble, harmonious, happy, and heart-working)
- For ministries and church expansions worldwide.

IV. CCF Facilities

- Worship and Training Center
- Prayer Mountain (MMRC)

V. Personal Concerns

- Deeper and intimate relationship with God
- Righteous living.
- Salvation of family and friends

MEMORY VERSE

Malachi 2:16

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