

**Parenting Month: Marriage (Malachi 2:14-15)**

**Introduction**

- When do children tend to flourish at home?
- Why might thinking about marriage and parenting be painful to some?
- What was the situation in Judah in Malachi's day?
- How were Jewish men being unfaithful in v11?
- What tends to happen when people do that (and when Christians marry non-Christians today)?
- What additional sin were the Jewish men committing in v14-15?

**i What sort of marriages should we seek to have?**

- What is the first characteristic which we should aim to show in our marriages?
- What is marriage, according to Malachi?
- What is a covenant?
- How serious are covenants?
- Who witnesses our marriages?
- How does this make marriage even more weighty?
- Where does v15 teach that our faithfulness must start?
- What does Matthew 5:27-28 teach about this?
- Give some examples of what this might mean.

- How faithful should we be in marriage?
- Who is our model?
- What is the second characteristic which we should aim to show in our marriages?
- What word does v14 use which speaks of oneness?
- Which are the strongest marriages?
- How can you cultivate oneness in married life?
- Who is the greatest model of oneness?

## ii How married life impacts children

- Can blessed children come from lousy marriages?
- Why does Malachi want Jewish marriages to be marked by faithfulness and oneness?
- How might children learn about God from their parents?
- What might happen if marriages are marked by sniping instead?
- What is it like to suffer from infertility?
- What is one way to support people struggling in this way?
- What should you remember if you had lousy parents?
- Who is the pattern of fatherhood?
- What should you do if you do not know Him?
- How can you make the most of Parenting Month?