DRIFT

When Commitments Don't Matter

John McLeod | November 5 & 8, 2026

Malachi 2:1-16

Covenant = "_____ _____."

vv. 1-9: _____ break covenant with _____.

1"And now, you priests, this warning is for you. 2If you do not listen, and if
you do not resolve to honor my name," says the Lord Almighty, "I will send
a curse on you, and I will curse your blessings. Yes, I have already cursed
them, because you have not resolved to honor me.

3"Because of you I will rebuke your descendants; I will smear on your faces
the dung from your festival sacrifices, and you will be carried off with it.
4And you will know that I have sent you this warning so that my covenant
with Levi may continue," says the Lord Almighty. 5"My covenant was with
him, a covenant of life and peace, and I gave them to him; this called for
reverence and he revered me and stood in awe of my name. 6True
instruction was in his mouth and nothing false was found on his lips.
He walked with me in peace and uprightness, and turned many from sin.

7"For the lips of a priest ought to preserve knowledge, because he is the
messenger of the Lord Almighty and people seek instruction from his
mouth. 8But you have turned from the way and by your teaching have
caused many to stumble; you have violated the covenant with Levi," says
the Lord Almighty. 9"So I have caused you to be despised and humiliated
before all the people, because you have not followed my ways but have
shown partiality in matters of the law."

10Do we not all have one Father? Did not one God create us? Why do we
profane the covenant of our ancestors by being unfaithful to one another?

vv. 11-16: _____ break covenant with _____ _____.

11Judah has been unfaithful. A detestable thing has been committed in
Israel and in Jerusalem: Judah has desecrated the sanctuary the Lord loves
by marrying women who worship a foreign god. 12As for the man who does
this, whoever he may be, may the Lord remove him from the tents of
Jacob—even though he brings an offering to the Lord Almighty.

13Another thing you do: You flood the Lord's altar with tears. You weep
and wail because he no longer looks with favor on your offerings or
accepts them with pleasure from your hands. 14You ask, "Why?" It is
because the Lord is the witness between you and the wife of your youth.
You have been unfaithful to her, though she is your partner, the wife of your
marriage covenant.

15Has not the one God made you? You belong to him in body and spirit.
And what does the one God seek? Godly offspring. So be on your guard,
and do not be unfaithful to the wife of your youth.

16"The man who hates and divorces his wife," says the Lord, the God
of Israel, "does violence to the one he should protect," says the Lord
Almighty.

So be on your guard, and do not be unfaithful.

Covenant-_____ people are loved
by a covenant-_____ God.