

Divorce...

Malachi 2:13-16a (New International Version)

13 Another thing you do: You flood the LORD's altar with tears. You weep and wail because he no longer pays attention to your offerings or accepts them with pleasure from your hands. 14 You ask, "Why?" It is because the LORD is acting as the witness between you and the wife of your youth, because you have broken faith with her, though she is your partner, the wife of your marriage covenant.

15 Has not the LORD made them one? In flesh and spirit they are his. And why one? Because he was seeking godly offspring. So guard yourself in your spirit, and do not break faith with the wife of your youth.

16 "I hate divorce," says the LORD God of Israel

When I got married, my wife to be had wanted everything to be perfect. She herself, single handedly, made all of the wedding decorations, her veil, her clothes after the wedding was done, she even made the wedding cake. And I am sure, if she had the time she would of made her own wedding dress. I could not at the time, figure out why this was so important to her. It was her wedding, and it was important to her, that much I could understand. But why such hard work for just one day, when we could of easily eloped and saved a whole lot of money. I paid for this wedding at a time when I was financially struggling. During all the wedding preparations, the question of why it was so important hung like a cloud over my head.

Then the wedding day came, I stood at the altar waiting for her to come up. The music started, "Bless this Broken Road", and I saw her for the first time in her wedding dress. She was a thing of beauty, as her veil surrounded her head like a Halo. All eyes were on her. She paused at the rear of the Church, awaiting her escort to the front of the Church. I looked at her and she was perfect. The Church decorations were perfect. Everything was perfect. All eyes were on her, but her focus was on only one person and that was me.

It was then, at that moment, I finally got it. All of her preparing, making sure everything was perfect, was done for one reason. She wanted everything to be perfect for Me! So at the altar as I saw her, in perfection, realizing that her focus was solely on me, I started to cry...

In contrast to this the Christian world has forgotten about what Marriage means to God. Greater than 50% of Christian marriages fail. In my family out of aunts, uncles, brothers, sisters, the divorce rate stands at 80%. In the earlier generations, my Grand parents, and great Grand parents, and earlier, the divorce rate is 0%. What changed?

Christ was asked the question, why did Moses give a certificate of divorce if God hates divorce so much. Christ's answer was that because of the hardness of their hearts(**Matthew 19:1-12**).

The laws today are such that they encourage divorce. From no-contact orders to the encouragement of Gay marriages, all undermine God's Word in marriages today. Wives are

encouraged to stand apart from their husbands, to be independent of them. Marriage is a Christian institution that is based on Christ's relationship with the Church. Now the government enforces no-contact orders, separation, divorce, while forcing secular counseling on marriages where there should be the Christian Spiritual advice.

The Church lacks as most do not offer marriage counseling for before and after the marriage. My pre marital counseling could be more called a marriage seminar. About 7 couples showed up, and the pastor talked about the difficulties in marriage and why we should take it more seriously. It was a 3 hour session and me and my wife to be, felt lost in something we thought should be more personable.

Churches today are afraid of the government, afraid of lawsuits, afraid of standing out. Many Churches today have encouraged wives to leave their husbands. Rather that heed the cry for help, they pass them off to the secular system that does not care for the institution of marriage. What happened to the days where the Church cared just as much for marriage as they did for attracting new members. Truly it is the hardness of our hearts!

The Church needs to stand out, and not care about what the laws say about marriage. Its time for the Church to care about what God says about marriages. Its time for us to be arrested, be sued, be hated for our beliefs. Its time for the Church to stand against the oppression of Marriage. Marriage is a representation of the relationship between Christ and the Church. Once the institution of marriage dies, so will the Church.

Now I have one confession, I would of treated marriage the same way before that moment I stood on the altar. My wife taught me a lesson on that day we got married. She got it, she knew the importance of the Christian marriage. Everyone's focus was on her during that day, but her focus was on her husband to be. This is perfect when applied to the Church. Everyone's focus should be on the Church, while the Church's focus should be on Christ alone.

Neo... October 11, 2009