

Covenant of Love
Malachi 2:10-16

Review:

1. God hates divorce because it always involves treachery, the breaking of covenant promises made not only to each other, but to Him as well
2. God doesn't enter into contracts with His people but makes an unconditional, self-sacrificial covenant with us
3. If we would be faithful to our spouses, we must love them the way God has loved us

Reflect:

1. Think about the differences between a contract and a covenant. Have you been treating your spouse as a contractual partner or as someone with whom you have made an unconditional covenant?
2. How does knowing that God's love for you is unconditional affect the sort of love you have for your neighbors? For your spouse?

Go further: Read Genesis 1:26-28; 2:18-25

1. In Whose image did God make mankind?
2. Over what parts of God's creation did God give mankind dominion?
3. In 1:28, what command did God give men and women concerning their children?
4. In 2:18, what did God say was not good? How did God say He would solve this problem?
5. What did God form out of the ground? Why did He bring them to Adam?
6. According to 2:20, what did Adam not find after examining all the animals and birds?
7. According to 2:21, what did God do to Adam while he slept?
8. What did God do with Adam's rib?
9. Who brought the woman to the man?
10. How did Adam describe the woman? What did he say she should be called?
11. According to verse 24, who should a man leave, and to whom should he be joined?
12. What do husband and wife become?
13. In what two ways does verse 25 describe the man and the woman?

Summary and Application:

1. How would you describe the relationship between Adam and Eve before there was any sin in the world?
2. What steps can you take to bring your marriage (or relationship) closer to God's ideal?