

When God Quits Responding to Our Prayers and Offerings

Malachi 2:10-17

10 Are we not all children of the same Father? Are we not all created by the same God? Then why do we betray each other, violating the covenant of our ancestors?

11 Judah has been unfaithful, and a detestable thing has been done in Israel and in Jerusalem. The men of Judah have defiled the Lord's beloved sanctuary by marrying women who worship idols. 12 May the Lord cut off from the nation of Israel[a] every last man who has done this and yet brings an offering to the Lord of Heaven's Armies.

*13 Here is another thing you do. **You cover the Lord's altar with tears, weeping and groaning because he pays no attention to your offerings and doesn't accept them with pleasure.** 14 You cry out, "**Why doesn't the Lord accept my worship?**"*

4 REASONS WE DONT HEAR BACK FROM GOD:

1. We aren't listening.
2. Selective Hearing Disorder: We hear what we want to hear.
3. He isn't talking.
4. He is actively opposed to you because you are in active and intentional rebellion to Him.

*I'll tell you why! Because **the Lord witnessed the vows you and your wife made when you were young. But you have been unfaithful to her, though she remained your faithful partner, the wife of your marriage vows.***

15 Didn't the Lord make you one with your wife? In body and spirit you are his. And what does he want? Godly children from your union. So guard your heart; remain loyal to the wife of your youth. 16 "For I hate divorce!" says the Lord, the God of Israel. "To divorce your wife is to overwhelm her with cruelty," says the Lord of Heaven's Armies. "So guard your heart; do not be unfaithful to your wife."

*17 You have wearied the Lord with your words. "**How have we wearied him?**" you ask. **You have wearied him by saying that all who do evil are good in the Lord's sight, and he is pleased with them.** You have wearied him by asking, "Where is the God of justice?"*

THE PRIESTS LED THE WAY IN TWEAKING SCRIPTURE TO ACCOMMODATE THEIR PET SINS.

The culture conforms to the cross. The cross doesn't conform to the culture.

Faithfulness isn't commitment until inconvenience arise. Faithfulness is only proven outside of convenience.

SCRIPTURAL JUSTIFICATIONS FOR DIVORCE:

Infidelity (Matthew 19:9)

Abandonment (1 Corinthians 7:15)

Abuse (1 Corinthians 7:15)

There are also plenty of Scriptural justifications for reconciliation even when we are justified in divorcing.

OUR CHALLENGE: THERE IS NO UNDOING THE PAST. WE CANT GO BACK TO PREVIOUS FORKS IN THE ROAD AND RE-DO THEM. WE LIVE GOING FORWARD.

So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus. -Romans 8:1

WE SHOULD BE FAITHFUL TO SCRIPTURE, DEPENDENT ON GOD'S GRACE, AND THIRSTY FOR THE GOD'S HOLINESS IN OUR LIVES.

There are reasons why God is silent. If God is silent because of our opposition to Him, let's humble ourselves and honor our God and keep pressing into Him.