

BE A BRINGER

“40 One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. 41 He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated, the Christ). 42 And he brought him to Jesus....” John 1:40-42a

A bringer makes one touch each week by investing and inviting someone to Christ and church.

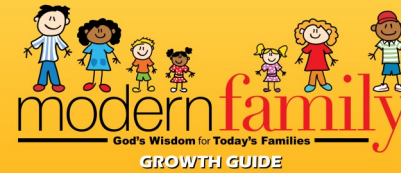
Name three people you will pray for their salvation this week:

PRAYER REQUESTS FOR THE WEEK

“Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you;....” I Samuel 12:23a



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Handout: 10/21/18

Study: 10/28/18

Modern Family Marriage

I'd like to draw out five principles from Malachi 2:14-15 that will help you have an enduring marriage.

1. God is the witness to your vows: "...the Lord is acting as the witness between you and the wife of your youth..." Your marriage will not just be recorded by the County Clerk, there will be the record in heaven. Don't enter it lightly. Ecclesiastes 5:4 says, "When you make a vow to God, do not delay in fulfilling it. It is better not to vow than to make a vow and not fulfill it."

2. Your spouse is your partner: "...though she is your partner..." Genesis 2:18: "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him." This word "helper" refers to a partner or companion. Literally, in Hebrew it means, "one who answers to, or corresponds to, one like himself, one who speaks his language." You are not better than your wife or better than your husband. You are in partnership.

3. Marriage is a binding covenant of commitment: "the wife of your marriage covenant." There are nearly 300 references to the word "covenant" in the Bible. A covenant was an exclusive, solemn and binding mutual agreement between two parties. In God's eyes, marriage is a covenant of committed companionship.

4. God's intention is for intimate oneness: "Has not the Lord made them one?" In order to fully understand this phrase, we need to go back to Genesis 2:24: "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh." In order for oneness to be established two things have to take place.

God says first of all that when we get married, we need to leave our parents. What this means is that we need to sever the emotional umbilical cord. Your loyalty now belongs to your spouse. Your partner should never have to compete with your parents. Second, God says that once you leave, you then need to be committed to permanence. The word "united" literally means to be permanently glued together -- "to melt two separate entities together to form a permanent bond."

Once leaving and cleaving take place, then you can become one flesh. This phrase conveys the idea of oneness. When a married couple becomes one flesh, their hearts and lives are knit together. This unity is to be experienced emotionally, spiritually, and physically. God's objective for marriage is a loving relationship of oneness.

5. Marriage is a platform to extend God's glory: "In flesh and spirit they are His." Marriage is the prism through which God reveals His covenant relationship with His people. This is stated strongly in Ephesians 5 where we read that when the husband and wife fulfill their God-given roles and live out His purposes, everyone around them learns more about the loving leadership that Jesus has for the church.

KEY VERSE

Malachi 2:14

"Yet you say, "For what reason?"

Because the Lord has been witness Between you and the wife of your youth,

With whom you have dealt treacherously;

Yet she is your companion And your wife by covenant." NKJV

WEEKLY READINGS

Monday: Malachi 2:14-16

Introduction

1. Give an example of someone with a great marriage. Why do you think their marriage is successful?
2. If you are married, what role does God play in your marriage? What is His purpose for your marriage?
3. What do we learn about marriage from this passage?

Tuesday: Romans 15:1-7; Philippians 2:3-4

Accept Your Spouse

4. If you are married, what qualities attracted you to your spouse?
5. In what ways are you and your spouse similar? How are you different? How can you accept the differences?
6. If you are single and desire marriage, what qualities are you looking for in a potential spouse?

Wednesday: Ephesians 4:31-32; Colossians 3:12-13

Forgive Your Spouse

7. Do you find it easy or difficult to forgive others?
8. How can the forgiveness that God has given to us, help us forgive our spouse or others who are close to us?

Thursday: Ephesians 4:29; I Thessalonians 5:11

Appreciate Your Spouse

9. What qualities does your spouse have that you appreciate?
10. How do you show your spouse that you appreciate them? If you are single, how do you show appreciation to your friends and family members?

Friday: I Corinthians 7:1-5; Romans 12:9-10

Show Affection To Your Spouse

11. How affectionate is your family?
12. What are some ways you can show affection to your spouse?