

Living Excellent Lives
Living Excellent Lives Relationally

I. Introduction

- A. We are promise-making people!
 - 1. A covenant is a vow.
- B. Luke 22:20 (NIV) *"This cup is the new covenant in My blood."*
- C. God is an excellent covenant-maker!
- D. Malachi 2:10 (NLT) *Are we not all children of the same Father? Are we not all created by the same God? Then why are we faithless to each other, violating the covenant of our ancestors?*
- E. Malachi 2:3 (NLT) *I will rebuke your descendants and splatter your faces with the dung of your festival sacrifices, and I will add you to the dung heap.*

II. Key "Covenant" Relationships

A. Marriage

- 1. Malachi 2:13-14 (NLT) 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 he doesn't accept them with pleasure. ¹⁴You cry out, "Why has the LORD abandoned us?" I'll tell you why! Because the LORD witnessed the vows you and your wife made to each other on your wedding day when you were young. But you have been disloyal to her, though she remained your faithful companion, the wife of your marriage vows.*
- 2. Malachi 2:16a (NLT) *"For I hate divorce!" says the LORD, the God of Israel.*
- 3. In God's eyes, marriage is a covenant!
- 4. God says, "I hate divorce." But, God does not say, "I hate divorced people."
- 5. But, no matter what has happened in the past, you need to reset the standard of excellence in your relationships!

B. Parents and children

- 1. "I'll be there for you, no matter what!"

C. Friendship

D. Marketplace relationships

1. "I will place integrity above all else!"
2. "Even if other people break faith with me, my word will be my bond."
3. Malachi 2:16c (NLT) *"So guard yourself; always remain loyal to your wife."*

III. Conclusion