



September 1st, 2024 • Malachi 2:10-16

Page 801 in the church Bibles • The Book of Malachi

Message #3/6 • by Pastor Marcus Johnson

“Fearing the Great Name of the LORD & Experiencing His Love”



Sermon Series Theme Verse – “For from the rising of the sun to its setting
my name will be great among the nations . . . says the LORD of hosts.” (Malachi 1:11)

Audio versions of Sermons and detailed sermon notes are available on our
website: LakeRegionBibleChurch.org (see “Messages 2024” tab)

Embracing Covenantal Faithfulness: with the LORD & thru Christ-centered Marriages

Summary: In this third dispute (out of six), the LORD rebukes Israel for being unfaithful in her covenantal relationship with Him (marrying women outside the Jewish faith, divorcing & treating their wives violently, shamefully & with neglect), and He exhorts His people to “...guard yourselves in your spirit, and do not to be faithless” (2v16).

1. The prophet rebukes Israel:

for her idolatrous worship & marriages (vs10-12)

2. The prophet rebuke Israel’s men:

for their marital unfaithfulness, abuse & divorce (vs13-16)

3. Embrace Covenantal Faithfulness with the LORD:

thru whole-hearted worship & by praising His great Name (1:1 – 2:9)

4. Embrace Covenantal Faithfulness thru Christ-centered Marriages:

by enjoying the gospel-exalting covenant of marriage & heeding the protective boundaries of divorce (Eph 5; Mt 19; 1Co 7; Mal 2:13-16)

Additional Sources

“Marriage Policy of Lake Region Bible Church” (available upon request)

“National Domestic Violence Hotline” (see next page)

www.thehotline.org • Call 1.800.799.SAFE (7233)

Excursus: Translating & Interpreting Malachi 2:16

ESV – Mal 2:16 “For the man who does not love his wife but divorces her,^[1] says the Lord, the God of Israel, covers^[2] his garment with violence, says the Lord of hosts. So guard yourselves in your spirit, and do not be faithless.” (*the translation used in this sermon*)

NASB – Mal 2:16 “For ^[1]hate ^[2]divorce,” says the Lord, the God of Israel, “and ^[3]him who covers his garment with violence,” says the Lord of armies. “So be careful about your spirit, that you do not deal treacherously.” (*example of an alternate translation*)

ESV Study Bible Notes (© 2007) – **Mal. 2:16** The Hebrew text of this verse is one of the most difficult passages in the OT to translate, with the result that the two main alternative translations proposed for this verse are strongly disputed. The ESV translation team has included in a footnote the other most common translation. Given the complexity of the linguistic issues involved, both alternatives are simply summarized briefly as follows, rather than presenting comprehensive arguments for each.

1. The ESV text reads, **the man who does not love his wife but divorces her**. This rendering understands the Hebrew (and the Gk. of the Septuagint) in the sense of, “For he hates (or “does not love”) [and] he divorces.” The action of “hating” and thus “divorcing” is seen also in [Deut. 24:3](#); further, the idea of a man “hating” his wife appears in [Gen. 29:31](#); [Deut. 21:15–17](#); [22:13](#); each case in the sense of “loving less” or “ceasing to love.” The expression **covers his garment with violence** is probably a figure of speech referring to the defiling of one’s character with violent wrongdoing (see the similar image in [Ps. 73:6](#); [109:18](#); [Rev. 3:4](#); and see the opposite in [Job 29:14](#); [Ps. 132:9](#); [Isa. 59:17](#); [61:10](#)). Although divorce based on loss of affection was recognized under the OT civic law, it is nowhere morally approved (unlike divorce based on a spouse’s sexual infidelity or desertion). This is so, as Malachi stresses, because divorce based merely on the loss of affection breaks the marriage covenant and defiles one’s character, since it is untrue to the creation ideal of faithfulness ([Gen. 2:24](#); see note on [Deut. 24:1–4](#)).

2. The ESV footnote reads, “The LORD, the God of Israel, says that he hates divorce, and him who covers [his garment with violence].” This is similar to the rendering that originally appeared in English in the King James Version of 1611. If this alternative rendering is followed, the focus is on *God’s hatred of the practice of divorce*, rather than on *the hatred of the divorcing man toward his wife*. Also following this alternative rendering, the phrase “covers his garment with violence” is understood either: (a) with reference to a second thing that God hates in addition to divorce, namely, the person “who covers his garment with violence”; or, as some hold, (b) that God hates divorce because the act of divorce itself “covers [one’s] garment with violence.”

National Domestic Violence Hotline

www.thehotline.org • Call 1.800.799.SAFE (7233)

Info below taken from the website above (also includes loveisrespect.org).

Note: Some resources or counsel offered are not in line with the Christian faith, but this is a helpful resource regarding domestic violence intervention & prevention.

Types of Abuse

Physical abuse is one of the most easily identified types of abuse. It involves the use of physical violence, or threats of it, to maintain power over an individual. Because of this, survivors are afraid and uncertain when more abuse will occur [e.g., Pull your hair or punch, slap, kick, bite, choke, or smother you; Forbid you from eating or sleeping].

Emotional abuse includes non-physical behaviors that are meant to control, isolate, or frighten someone. These behaviors are often more subtle and hard to identify but are just as serious as other types of abuse. [e.g., Isolating you from family, friends, or other people; Monitoring your activities; Attempting to control what you wear; Gaslighting you by pretending not to understand or refusing to listen to you].

Sexual abuse is when a partner controls the physical and sexual intimacy in a relationship. This often involves acting in a way that is non-consensual and forced [e.g., Make you dress in a sexual way you're uncomfortable with; Insult you in sexual ways or call you explicit names; Force or manipulate you into having sex or performing sexual acts, especially when you're sick, tired, or physically injured from their abuse].

Financial abuse or economic abuse occurs when an abusive partner extends their power and control into your financial situation [e.g., Depositing your paycheck into an account you can't access; Preventing you from viewing or accessing bank accounts; Stopping you from working; Maxing out your credit cards without permission].

Digital abuse is the use of technology and the Internet to bully, harass, stalk, intimidate, or control a partner. This behavior is often a form of verbal or emotional abuse conducted online [e.g., Sending, requesting, or pressuring you to send unwanted explicit photos or videos, sexts, or otherwise compromising messages; Stealing or insisting on being given your account passwords; Constantly texting you].

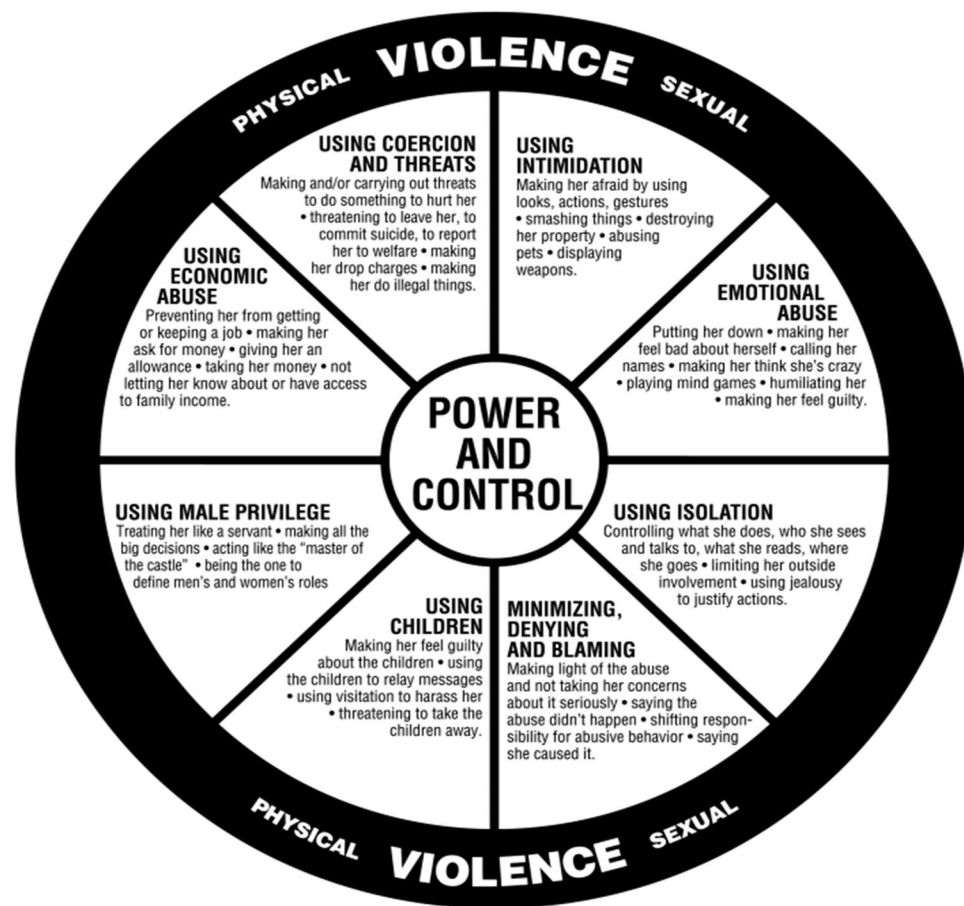
Sexual coercion lies on the continuum of sexually aggressive behavior. It can range from begging and persuasion to forced sexual contact [e.g., Implying that you owe them something sexually in exchange for previous actions, gifts, or consent; Giving you drugs or alcohol to "loosen up" your inhibitions].

Reproductive coercion is a form of power and control where one partner strips another of the ability to control their own reproductive system [e.g., Lying about methods of birth control (i.e. having a vasectomy or being on the pill); Forcing pregnancy or not supporting your decisions about when or if to have children; Keeping you pregnant by getting you pregnant again shortly after you have a child].

Stalking occurs when someone watches, follows, or harasses you repeatedly, making you feel afraid or unsafe, and may occur from someone you know, a past partner, or a stranger [e.g., Showing up at your home or workplace unannounced or uninvited; Sending you unwanted messages, voicemails; Leaving you unwanted items, gifts].

Power and Control (www.thehotline.org)

Domestic violence is a pattern of behaviors used to gain or maintain power and control. At The Hotline, our frame of reference for describing abuse is the Power and Control Wheel created by the Domestic Abuse Intervention Project in Duluth, MN. The Power and Control Wheel diagram below assumes she/her pronouns for survivors and he/him pronouns for partners. However, the abusive behavior it details can happen to people of any gender or sexuality. The inside of the wheel is made up of subtle, continual behaviors over time, while the outer ring represents physical and sexual violence. Abusive actions like those depicted in the outer ring often reinforce the regular use of other, more subtle methods found in the inner ring. Moreover, the wheel diagram serves as tactics abusive partners use to keep survivors in a relationship.



Warning Signs of Abuse

loveisrespect.org/dating-basics-for-healthy-relationships/warning-signs-of-abuse/

What to look for & more Relationships exist on a spectrum and it can sometimes be hard to tell when a behavior goes from healthy to unhealthy (or even abusive). Typical warning signs of abuse from your partner include: Checking your phone, email, or social media accounts without your permission; Putting you down frequently, especially in front of others; Isolating you from friends or family (physically, financially, or emotionally); Extreme jealousy or insecurity; Explosive outbursts, temper, or mood swings; Any form of physical harm; Possessiveness or controlling behavior; Pressuring you or forcing you to have sex.