

**Fight For The Fatherless**

# Malachi 2:14-16

**Its all about the kids!**

# What is God's complaint?

Mal 2:15b And what was the one God seeking? Godly offspring.

# A disenfranchised group

*(Psa 82:3 NIV) Defend the cause of the weak and fatherless; maintain the rights of the poor and oppressed.*

*(Job 29:12 NIV) because I rescued the poor who cried for help, and the fatherless who had none to assist him.*

# Men and Women

Genesis 1:27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

# Poverty...

Children in father-absent homes are five times more likely to be poor.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Children's Living Arrangements and Characteristics: March 2002, P20-547, Table C8. Washington, D.C.: GPO 2003.

# Behavioral Problems...

Children in single-parent families are two to three times as likely to have emotional and behavioral problems, as children in two-parent families.

Source: Stanton, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. National Center for Health Statistics. "National Health Interview Survey." Hyattsville, MD, 1988



# Scholastic achievement....

Fatherless children are twice as likely to drop out of school.

Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.  
National Center for Health Statistics. Survey on Child Health.  
Washington, DC; GPO, 1993.

# Crime...

Compared to their peers born to married parents, children born out-of-wedlock were 10 times more likely to become a chronic juvenile offender if male and born to an unmarried teen mother, according to a study in the state of Washington using statewide data.

Source: Conseur, Amy et al. "Maternal and Perinatal Risk Factors for Later Delinquency." *Pediatrics* 99 (1997): 785-790

**What can I do?**

# 1.) Keep to God's definition of Marriage

*Mal 2:15a Did he not make them one, with a portion of the Spirit in their union?*

# What Jesus said...

*Mark 10:6-9 But from the beginning of creation, 'God made them male and female.' 'Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.' So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate."*

## 2.) Don't play house before marriage.

*Mal 2:14 But you say, "Why does he not?"  
Because the LORD was witness between you  
and the wife of your youth, to whom you have  
been faithless, though she is your companion  
and your wife by covenant.*

# The way it should be

*1Co 6:12-14 "All things are lawful for me," but not all things are helpful. "All things are lawful for me," but I will not be enslaved by anything.*

*"Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food"--and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is not meant for sexual immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by his power.*

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# Your bodies

*1Co 6:15 Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! 1Co 6:16 Or do you not know that he who is joined to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, "The two will become one flesh."*



# Don't sin

*1Co 6:18 Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body.*

**80%**

An article on [examiner.com](http://examiner.com) states that 80 percent of “shacking-up” relationships end before marriage or in divorce after marriage.

### 3.) Stay with the woman you married.

*Mal 2:15b-16 So guard yourselves in your spirit, and let none of you be faithless to the wife of your youth. "For the man who does not love his wife but divorces her, says the LORD, the God of Israel, covers his garment with violence, says the LORD of hosts. So guard yourselves in your spirit, and do not be faithless."*

**What can I do?**

## What you can do..

- Divorced: accept the forgiveness Jesus offers
- Married: stay married
- Playing house: get married or stay apart
- Dating: Stay pure
- Have Children: Be in their Lives
- Help the fatherless where you can

# Is our Nation cursed?

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