

*Distorted Reality #2*  
**We Obey God**

**Word**

**Scripture Reference**

Malachi 2:1-16

**Discussion Questions**

1. What expectations do other people have for you? How do you handle it?
2. The Bible teaches in Malachi 2:1-16 that partial obedience is still disobedience. God held the priests to a very high standard in leading the people in worship. The priests should have been good examples to others on how they should live their lives and honor God's name (verses 1-4). Because of their disobedience, God disqualified them from leading His people. Because they didn't honor God and glorify His name, they were disciplined. You, too, are called to honor God's name. How do you honor His name in your daily life? What should motivate you in doing so?
3. God takes your relationship with Him very seriously. God expects you, as His redeemed people, to obey Him without exceptions. How important is your knowledge of God's Word in relation to your obedience to Him? How would it set your heart to love God and to care for what He wants?
4. God accused the priests of not obeying Him by manipulating His commands (verses 8-9). What did the priests do that greatly displeased God? Give some examples of how Christians today are similarly guilty of twisting and corrupting God's commands?
5. Our generation only accepts what they want to accept and look for exceptions for everything. We make gray what God has made black and white. How is this true in your life? What are the gray areas in your life that you need to acknowledge before God?
6. In verses 10-12, God tells His people that unfaithfulness is an act of disobedience to Him. He gave two evidences of how the people

manifested their unfaithfulness. One is the intermarriage of the tribe of Judah to "daughters of a foreign God." Why is marrying an unbeliever not acceptable to God (v. 11)? Discuss some reasons why even good Christians end up marrying non-Christians? Is desperation to get married a good reason to disobey God's command? Why do you need to obey God even if His "rules" don't make sense to you?

7. Another evidence of the Israelites' disobedience is divorce (verses 13-16). How would you define marriage, or what is your perspective of it? Even though God allows divorce in some extreme cases (Deut. 24; 1 Cor. 7), it doesn't mean He likes it. Why do you think so? Can a divorced person (or someone in a similar situation) still be accepted and restored despite the fact that God hates divorce?
8. You probably think that God is a cosmic killjoy who gives out all these rules because He doesn't want you to enjoy life. We are so intent on finding loopholes to God's commands, so focused on exceptions to His rules that we forget to look at His heart. Go back to verses 5-7 and discuss how God deals with those who walk in obedience to Him. Do you believe that blessings are God's promise to those who obey Him, and that they are meant for your own good? Share your personal experience with the group about how God has evidently blessed you as a result of your obedience?

**Walk**

We as God's children are bringers of His message to the world. Are you living in the distorted reality that you are obeying God by picking and choosing which of His commands to follow? Do you bring a message of obedience or do you twist God's message to suit your own lifestyle?

**Worship & Prayer**

**Join the Corporate Prayer Time every Friday, 7:15-8:00pm at the Balcony**

Pray for...

- Healing of Katherine (dengue), IC, JTL, Georgia Cruz.
- Safety of the Tambis family in Leyte whose situation is still unknown.
- Grace for Janeth and her family based in Bantayan Island to recover from the calamity. Also for her father to be spared from possible cancer.
- For the three children of MBB studying at Tacloban to be found.
- For the relief operations to be smooth and effective to reach the needy.