

# Dead Orthodoxy

Disputing God's Honour

Malachi 1:6-2:9 ESV

Honduras mission trip - diving  
and right of way  
Respect due to size  
- heavyweight negotiator - Big Man  
On campus

[6] "A son honors his father, and a servant his master. If then I am a father, where is my honor? And if I am a master, where is my fear? says the LORD of hosts to you, O priests, who despise my name. But you say, 'How have we despised your name?' [7] By offering polluted food upon my altar. But you say, 'How have we polluted you?' By saying that the LORD's table may be despised. [8] When you offer blind animals in sacrifice, is that not evil? And when you offer those that are lame or sick, is that not evil? Present that to your governor; will he accept you or show you favor? says the LORD of hosts. [9] And now entreat the favor of God, that he may be gracious to us. With such a gift from your hand, will he show favor to any of you? says the LORD of hosts. [10] Oh that there were one among you who would shut the doors, that you might not kindle fire on my altar in vain! I have no pleasure in you, says the LORD of hosts, and I will not accept an offering from your hand. [11] For from the rising of the sun to its setting my name will be great among the nations, and in every place incense will be offered to my name, and a pure offering. For my name will be great among the nations, says the LORD of hosts. [12] But you profane it when you say that the Lord's table is polluted, and its fruit, that is, its food may be despised. [13] But you say, 'What a weariness this is,' and you snort at it, says the LORD of hosts. You bring what has been taken by violence or is lame or sick, and this you bring as your offering! Shall I accept that from your hand? says the LORD. [14] Cursed be the cheat who has a male in his flock, and vows it, and yet sacrifices to the Lord what is blemished. For I am a great King, says the LORD of hosts, and my name will be feared among the nations.

[1] "And now, O priests, this command is for you. [2] If you will not listen, if you will not take it to heart to give honor to my name, says the LORD of hosts, then I will send the curse upon you and I will curse your blessings. Indeed, I have already cursed them, because you do not lay it to heart. [3] Behold, I will rebuke your offspring, and spread dung on your faces, the dung of your offerings, and you shall be taken away with it. [4] So shall you know that I have sent this command to you, that my covenant with Levi may stand, says the LORD of hosts. [5] My covenant with him was one of life and peace, and I gave them to him. It was a covenant of fear, and he feared me. He stood in awe of my name. [6] True instruction was in his mouth, and no wrong was found on his lips. He walked with me in peace and uprightness, and he turned many from iniquity. [7] For the lips of a priest should guard knowledge, and people should seek instruction from his mouth, for he is the messenger of the LORD of hosts. [8] But you have turned aside from the way. You have caused many to stumble by your instruction. You have corrupted the covenant of Levi, says the LORD of hosts, [9] and so I make you despised and abased before all the people, inasmuch as you do not keep my ways but show partiality in your instruction."

Context – the truth of the situation

*THE TRUTH: The priests and the people were not honouring God*

### **Priests**

- Identified explicitly
- Responsible for sacrifices and teaching the Law

### **People**

- Bring sacrifices

### **Honour**

- Weightiness, heaviness, importance, authority, GLORY
- To honour is to recognize through our thoughts, feelings, and actions the weightiness of someone
- To give glory to someone

Content – the truth for Malachi's audience

*THE TRUTH: God is worthy of honour*

### **Purpose of the dispute?**

1:11, 14 – honouring God's name in Israel and the world

- Name closely tied to identity, a name establishes one's identity
  - God's name represents the essence of who he is especially in his covenantal love, sovereignty, and faithfulness
  - Despising God's name is despising who he is
  - Honouring God's name or fearing God's name is honouring who he is

2:6 – God honoured and not despised

**Evidence of contempt?**

- 1:8 – Presenting unacceptable animals for sacrifice - blind, lame, sick
- 1:9 – entreating for favour while disobeying - student w/ poor assignment
- 1:13 – snorting at God's altar
- 1:14 – cheating God
- 2:8-9 – disobeying the covenant - turned aside from the way

**Consequences of contempt?**

- 1:10 – God desires their worship to stop → had attitude w/ chores
- 1:10 – God does not find pleasure in them
  - God is pleased = God is honoured
- 1:14 – cursed, curse their blessing
- 2:3 – dung = disqualify them from serving and disgracing them

↳ GRAVITY

**Desired outcome of dispute?**

- 2:4 – God's covenant would be honoured
- 2:5 – in honouring the covenant, life and peace would be there's
- 2:6 – receive true instruction and turn from sin

Do we honour God?  
↳ thoughts + feelings  
↳ actions

Do we really believe he is worthy of honour?

Christ – the truth for us

*THE TRUTH: Jesus honours God as a faithful priest, a loyal Son, and a perfect sacrifice*

### Jesus is the faithful priest who honours God

**Hebrews 2:14-17 ESV** [14] Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he <sup>[JESUS]</sup> himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, [15] and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery. [16] For surely it is not angels that he helps, but he helps the offspring of Abraham. [17] Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.

### Jesus is the loyal Son who honours God

FAITHFUL LOYAL LOVE

**2 Peter 1:16-18 ESV** [16] For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. [17] For when he received honor and glory from God the Father, and the voice was borne to him by the Majestic Glory, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased,” [18] we ourselves heard this very voice borne from heaven, for we were with him on the holy mountain.

Pleasing God = Honouring God  
Not Pleasing God = Despising / ~~Dis~~ God

### Jesus is the perfect sacrifice who honours God

**Ephesians 5:1-2 ESV** [1] Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. [2] And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

**Hebrews 10:12 ESV** [12] But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God,

Consider – the truth to act on

*THE TRUTH: A living faith honours God*

**Recognize that in and of yourself you cannot honour God - SALVATION**

**Galatians 2:16 ESV**[16] yet we know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, so we also have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law, because by works of the law no one will be justified.

**Romans 14:23b ESV** [23b] For whatever does not proceed from faith is sin.

*★ GOSPEL ★*

*★ By faith, not works*

**Rejoice that "in Christ" you can honour God - SANCTIFICATION**

**Westminster Catechism:** Notwithstanding, the persons of believers being accepted through Christ, their good works also are accepted in Him; not as though they were in this life wholly unblameable and unreproveable in God's sight; but that He, looking upon them in His Son, is pleased to accept and reward that which is sincere, although accompanied with many weaknesses and imperfections.

**Philippians 2:13 ESV** [13] for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

*★ By faith, not works*

**Respond by endeavouring to live a God-honoring life of living faith**

**Romans 12:2 ESV** [2] Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.