

A magnifying glass with a black handle and a silver-colored rim is positioned over a light-colored, textured surface. The lens of the magnifying glass is centered over the text, which is arranged in three lines. The first line, 'Sacred', and the second line, 'Surrender', are in a light orange color with a thin black outline. The third line, 'MARRIAGE', is in a solid light orange color. Below these, the word 'MALACHI' is written in a dark grey, serif font. At the bottom, the word 'CHOOSING' is written in a large, bold, black sans-serif font.

Sacred  
Surrender  
MARRIAGE

MALACHI  
CHOOSING

\*LORD to Israel... (Malachi 1:1-5)

**a) I have loved [do love] you**

**b) Yea, right. How PROOF?**

**c) I CHOSE you. ( I did not choose someone else. Esau)**

**d)** Even if others try to seduce or intimidate me into choosing them, that will not happen. They may try and (when rebuffed) try again, but I will still reject their claim!

**e)** My proof of choosing you is my  
REFUSAL to choose someone else  
and my REJECTION of all advances.

The sacred and solemn VOW of marriage carries the weight of the universe because it is a profound, public statement of CHOISE.

Love may be **FILLED WITH**  
emotion, but love **IS** a willful choice!

I choose a **person**, not a **performance**.

This is:

✓ the example of **God's love** for us  
(Romans 5:8)

✓ the careful expression of the  
**wedding vow** “better or worse”

✓ the **challenge** and **work** and **reward**  
of “relationship”



I choose you over all competition.

The list of things which can easily usurp the **place** and **priority** of the marriage partner is endless.

Countless marriages have been lost because of competition.

## **CHILDREN**

- competition for affection and delight in division
- adult children... Personal need for “ally”  
endangers marriage
- loss of a child... Allowing grief to come  
between you and partner

Children must receive this message  
regarding your marriage.

**“If you seek to compete, you will  
always lose!”**

This is the meaning of “**hate**” in Malachi 1:3.

- God did not despise the Edomite people. He actually helped them to secure their won land.

*(Deut. 2:12, 21-22)*

God rejected the Edomites as competition and punished them for any attacks on his “first love,” Israel.

God's "hatred" was his OBJECTION to their REJECTION of his "wife" (Israel). *[Numbers 20:14-21]*. This was no different for other nations who opposed Israel, God's chosen priority *[Judges 11:14-29]*.

I choose **submission** over self-gratification.

“Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ” (*Ephesians 5:21*)



- Surrendering my **desires** to your **needs**.
- Seeking to **serve**, rather than **subdue**.