

Hosea

GOD'S FAITHFUL LOVE
FOR HIS FAITHLESS PEOPLE

October 4, 2017

Pastor Ben Hicks

God's Opening Statement Hosea 4:1-3

How often have you thought to yourself, "Well, if that's the worst I have to give an account for before God, I think I'll be OK." As we come to Hosea, God is addressing the people of Israel, and he is dealing with a people steeped in sin. Yet they don't see things that way. From the nations perspective, things are going well, the economy is booming, and everyone seems happy. From God's perspective things are so bad he is starting a divorce proceeding. The passage that we are going to read tonight opens that divorce proceeding, and it ought to convict us of our failures before God as it did ancient Israel.

Evaluate yourself by God's standard.

I. You must examine your character (v 1).

A. You must have personal integrity.

"Faithfulness" – describes someone who has a dependable, reliable character. Someone who is honest and fair in business dealings.

B. You must have right relationships with others.

“Steadfast love” describes someone fulfilling his roles in his relationships but also going beyond them in showing kindness

C. You must have a right relationship with God.

“Knowledge of God” – describes someone who has both a factual knowledge of God as well as a relational one. A failure here is the result of every other failure of Israel.

II. You must examine your conduct (v 2).

A. Examine your conduct for blasphemy.

B. Examine your conduct for lying.

C. Examine your conduct for hatred.

D. Examine your conduct for stealing.

E. Examine your conduct for lust.

III. You must examine the consequences (v 3).

A. Sin affects you personally.

Sin causes us to wither up and die. It destroys us, whether by God’s direct involvement or whether by his use of the natural course of our own sins.

B. Sin affects your environment.

The consequences of sin are far reaching, touching not just us but those around us, and even the creation itself.