A Sinful Nation Playing Innocent  
Malachi 1:1-2

Introduction:
A. Israel after return from Babylon became very corrupt.
B. The Lord through Malachi offers a series of rebukes in Nehemiah’s day.
C. Israel’s responds to each rebuke with a question that feigned innocence.
D. Note the rebukes and Israel’s response:

Discussion:
I. God Proclaims His Love and Their Response (1:2)
A. “Wherein has thou loved us?”
B. Ignored God’s special favors to them (vv. 2-5).
C. We sometimes forget God’s love.
   1. Providential care, prosperity, freedom, moral agency etc.
   2. Spiritual blessings: forgiveness, fellowship, etc.
II. God Charges Priest with Pollution and Their Response (1:6-7).
A. “Wherein have we...”
B. Offered unacceptable sacrifices (8-11)
C. We can offer unacceptable worship (Mt.15:9; cf. Lev. 10:1-5).
III. God Charges Them with profane Worship and Their Response (1:12, 13).
A. “Behold, what a weariness it is!”
B. They snuffed or sneered at it.
C. Have know people to sneer at NT worship.
   1. Too dull - what a weariness.
   2. Too “legalistic” - what a weariness.
IV. God Charges Them Unlawful Marriage and Their Response (2:11-14)
A. “Wherefore?”
B. Had spiritually and literally unlawfully married – divorced “wives of their youth”
C. Our mounting divorce rate and remarriage rate.
   1. The parties say, “Wherefore?”
   2. Christians say, “Wherefore?”
   3. Preachers say, “Wherefore?”
   4. Churches say, “Wherefore?”
V. God Charges Them of Wearying Him with Words and Their Response (2:17).
A. “Wherein have we wearied him?”
B. Claimed must be right or God would have already judged them.
C. We often mistakes God’s longsuffering for approval.
VI. God Charges Them to Return to Him and Their Response (3:7).
A. “Wherein shall we return?”
B. Did not think they needed to return.
C. We can drift away and not recognize it. (Heb. 2:1-4)
D. Must return for him to return to us.
VII. God Charges Them with Robbing God and Their Response (3:8).
A. “Wherein have we robbed thee?”
B. Had withheld tithes and offerings.
C. We may rob God by withholding contributions (1 Cor. 16:2).

Conclusion:
A. Are you saying “Wherein” and “Wherefore” to God.
B. The need to obey gospel? To be restored? To correct you life in someway?