

## THE WAY OF CAIN: A STUDY ON THE CONSEQUENCES OF SIN

“Likewise also these filthy dreamers defile the flesh, despise dominion, and speak evil of dignities. Yet Michael the archangel, when contending with the Devil he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke thee. But these speak evil of those things which they know not: but what they know naturally, as brute beasts, in those things they corrupt themselves. Woe unto them! For they have gone in **the way of Cain**, and ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward, and perished in the gainsaying of Core” (**Jude 1:8-11**).

### Introduction:

1. Cain’s legacy is described as “the way of Cain” (**Jude 1:11**); highlighting the progression of sin and rebellion.
2. Cain’s life shows how unchecked sin leads to devastating consequences, leaving a legacy of rebellion against God.
3. This lesson will examine Cain’s path and its lessons for us today.

### 1. Tracing The Way Of Cain:

Cain’s life demonstrates how one sinful choice can lead to a downward spiral of increasing rebellion against God. The Bible describes Cain as one who “was of the wicked one” (**1 John 3:12**), and his actions in Genesis 4 highlight the progressive nature of sin. Beginning with unbelief, Cain’s rejection of God’s will led to envy, anger, resentment, and ultimately murder and deceit. Each step reveals a critical lesson about the destructive path of sin and the importance of addressing it at its root.

- a. A Downward Spiral Of Sin: Cain’s actions depict a downward spiral of sin, as outlined in Genesis 4 and 1 John 3:12.
- b. The Progression Of Cain’s Sin Includes Five Key Steps:
  - 1) Unbelief That Led To Disobedience:
    - a) Supporting Scriptures: Hebrews 11:4; Romans 10:17.
    - b) Cain’s sacrifice was rejected because he did not offer it according to faith, implying disobedience to God’s revealed instructions (**Genesis 4:4-5**).
    - c) Lesson: God demands faith-driven obedience. Even good intentions cannot replace submission to His will (**Luke 6:46; 1 Samuel 15:22-23**).
  - 2) Envy That Led To Anger:
    - a) Supporting Scriptures: Genesis 4:4-5; James 3:14-16.
    - b) Cain envied Abel’s acceptance by God and grew bitter over his own rejection.
    - c) Lesson: Envy blinds us to God’s blessings in our own lives and fosters bitterness toward others. Instead of harboring resentment, we must cultivate gratitude and a spirit of rejoicing in the successes and blessings of others.
  - 3) Anger That Led To Resentment:
    - a) Supporting Scriptures: Genesis 4:6-7; Ephesians 4:26-27.
    - b) God warned Cain that sin was “crouching at the door” and urged him to master his anger. Cain ignored the warning, allowing his anger to fester into resentment.
    - c) Lesson: unresolved anger gives Satan a foothold. We must confront our emotions with humility and seek God’s guidance.
  - 4) Resentment That Led To Murder:
    - a) Supporting Scriptures: Genesis 4:8; Matthew 5:21-22.
    - b) Cain murdered Abel, the ultimate result of unchecked sin. This act symbolized the conflict between good and evil.
    - c) Lesson: Resentment unchecked leads to catastrophic actions. We must resolve conflicts and forgive as God forgives us.

5) Murder That Led To Lying:

- a) Supporting Scriptures: Genesis 4:9; Proverbs 6:16-19.
- b) Cain lied to God, denying responsibility for his brother's death. Lying often follows sin as an attempt to evade accountability.
- c) Lesson: God sees all. Lying only compounds guilt and estranges us further from Him.

The tragic progression of Cain's sin illustrates the dangers of unchecked emotions and disobedience to God. His story warns us of how sin compounds, taking us further from God with each step. By contrast, obedience, faith, and humility can break this cycle and draw us closer to God. We must strive to master sin before it masters us, learning from Cain's example to seek God's will and guard our hearts against envy, anger, and bitterness.

**2. The End Of The Way:**

The consequences of Cain's sin reveal the devastating effects of rebellion against God. His punishment reflects not only the justice of God but also the deep spiritual and relational costs of sin. By examining the curse on Cain's labor, the fairness of God's judgment, and Cain's separation from God's presence, we see the lasting impact of sin and the urgent need to address it through repentance and submission to God.

a. God's Curse:

- 1) Supporting Scriptures: Genesis 4:10-12.
- 2) The ground, which Cain worked as a farmer, would no longer yield its strength. He became a restless wanderer.
- 3) Lesson: Sin separates us from blessings and burdens us with consequences.



b. God's Justice:

- 1) Supporting Scriptures: Genesis 4:13-15; Romans 12:19.
- 2) Cain complained about the severity of his punishment, but God's justice was fair. Vengeance belongs to God alone.
- 3) Lesson: Trust God's justice rather than seeking revenge.

c. Separation From God:

- 1) Supporting Scriptures: Genesis 4:16.
- 2) Cain left God's presence, living in alienation. His family's legacy demonstrated the consequences of departing from God.
- 3) Lesson: Sin ultimately leads to spiritual separation. Only through repentance can we restore fellowship with God.

Cain's life serves as a sobering reminder that sin has far-reaching consequences, impacting our work, relationships, and connection with God. While his punishment highlights the seriousness of sin, it also points us to the importance of repentance and trusting in God's justice. We must strive to remain in God's presence, walking in obedience to His will, to avoid the tragic end of separation from Him.

**3. Be Like Abel, Not Like Cain:**

Abel and Cain represent two distinct paths: faith and obedience versus rebellion and self-will. Abel's faith-driven sacrifice pleased God, while Cain's disobedience led to rejection and sin. Jude exhorts Christians to follow Abel's example by building their faith, seeking God through prayer, and remaining in His love (**Jude 1:20-21**). This section explores how we can choose faith, strengthen our spiritual walk, and align our lives with God's will.

- a. Abel represents faith and obedience, while Cain represents rebellion.
- b. Jude urges Christians to build their faith, pray in the Spirit, and remain in God's love (**Jude 1:20-21**).

- 1) Walk By Faith, Not By Sight:
  - a) Supporting Scriptures: Hebrews 11:4.
  - b) Abel's sacrifice was offered by faith, pleasing God.
  - c) Lesson: A life of faith and obedience brings God's approval.
- 2) Build Yourself Up In Faith:
  - a) Supporting Scriptures: Jude 1:20-21.
  - b) Christians must remain grounded in faith, prayer, and love.
  - c) Lesson: Build your life on God's Word to avoid the path of rebellion.
- 3) Choose God's Way:
  - a) Supporting Scriptures: Genesis 4:26.
  - b) Seth's descendants called on the name of the Lord, contrasting Cain's lineage.
  - c) Lesson: Choose submission to God over self-will and rebellion.

Abel's life demonstrates that God rewards faith and obedience, while Cain's rebellion serves as a warning against rejecting God's authority. By walking in faith, grounding ourselves in prayer and love, and choosing God's way, we can experience His approval and avoid the destructive consequences of sin. Let us strive to follow Abel's example, living lives that honor and please God.

#### Summary:

1. **Cain's Downward Spiral Of Sin:** Began with unbelief and disobedience, progressed through envy, anger, and resentment, and ultimately led to murder and lying to God.
2. **The Consequences Of Cain's Actions:** God's curse rendered his labor fruitless, His justice punished Cain's rebellion, and Cain's separation from God left him a restless wanderer.
3. **The Call To Be Like Abel:** Abel exemplified faith and obedience, offering a sacrifice that pleased God. Christians are encouraged to build their faith, pray in the Spirit, and remain in God's love.
4. **The Warning Of Cain's Example:** Cain's life serves as a cautionary tale about the dangers of unchecked sin, while Abel's life demonstrates the blessings of faith-driven obedience.

#### Applications:

1. **Guard Against Unbelief And Disobedience:** Approach God with faith and submission to His will, ensuring your actions align with His revealed Word (**Hebrews 11:6**).
2. **Root Out Envy And Bitterness:** Rejoice in the blessings of others and guard your heart against envy, which can lead to destructive attitudes and actions (**James 3:14-16**).
3. **Master Your Anger:** Address anger quickly and biblically to prevent it from giving Satan a foothold in your life (**Ephesians 4:26-27**).
4. **Seek Reconciliation:** Resolve conflicts and practice forgiveness to avoid resentment and its damaging effects on relationships (**Matthew 5:23-24**).
5. **Trust In God's Justice:** Avoid taking vengeance into your own hands, trusting that God's justice is perfect and complete (**Romans 12:19**).
6. **Stay Close To God:** Cultivate a life of faith, prayer, and obedience to remain in God's presence and avoid spiritual separation (**Jude 1:20-21**).
7. **Follow Abel's Example:** Live a life of faith and obedience, offering God your best in every area, and walk in a way that pleases Him (**Hebrews 11:4**).

**Questions:**

1. What is meant by “the way of Cain” (**Jude 1:11**)?
2. Why was Cain’s sacrifice rejected by God?
3. What lesson can we learn from Cain’s envy?
4. How did God warn Cain about his anger?
5. What were the immediate consequences of Cain’s sin?
6. What does Cain’s punishment teach us about God’s justice?
7. How does Cain’s separation from God demonstrate the effects of sin?
8. How does Abel’s example contrast with Cain’s?
9. What does Jude urge Christians to do in response to Cain’s example (**Jude 1:20-21**)?
10. How can Christians avoid following the way of Cain?

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Based on a sermon outline by Dave Schmidt