

Raising Cain or Sibling Rivalry Goes Sour

Genesis
4:1-15





When we get married we expect:

The perfect Family.

Mom and dad love each other.

Kids love and obey mom and dad.

Kids love each other.

What do we get?

Getting a Handle on Sibling Rivalry



What do we get?



What do we get?



What do we get?



What do we get?



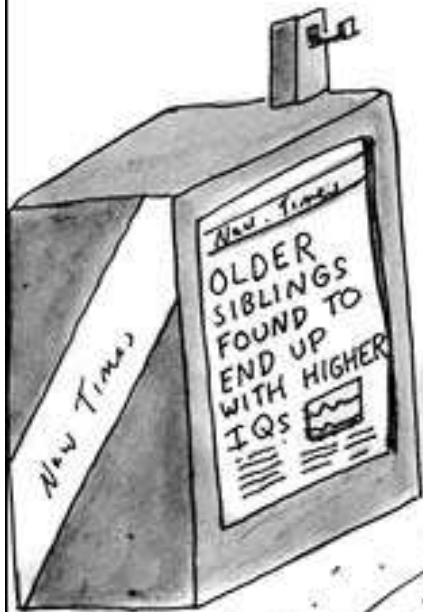
What do we get?



What do we get?



How weird!
I wonder how that
happens.



Sage Stossel

Genesis should be our warning.

Cain & Abel

Ishmael
&
Isaac

Esau &
Jacob

Leah &
Rachel

Joseph &
brothers

**Today we will focus on the first
Sibling Rivalry**

**The True Story of
Cain and Abel**

It started well



Genesis 4:1-2 (NIV)

¹ Adam lay with his wife Eve, and she became pregnant and gave birth to Cain. She said, “With the help of the Lord I have brought forth a man.” ² Later she gave birth to his brother Abel. Now Abel kept flocks, and Cain worked the soil.

Genesis 4:1-2 (NET)

¹ Now the man had marital relations with his wife Eve, and she became pregnant and gave birth to Cain (Qayin). Then she said, “I have created (qanah) a man just as the Lord did!” ² Then she gave birth to his brother Abel. Abel took care of the flocks, while Cain cultivated the ground.

Obligatory Offering vs. Heart Offering

Genesis 4:3-4a (NIV)

³ In the course of time Cain brought some of the fruits of the soil as an offering to the Lord.

⁴ But Abel brought fat portions from some of the firstborn of his flock.

Both Worshiped with offerings from their occupation.

Cain gave out of a sense of duty.

Abel gave the best – the fat from the firstborn (faith).

God Sees the Heart behind the Offering

Genesis 4:4b-5a
(NIV) The Lord looked with favor on Abel and his offering, ⁵ but on Cain and his offering he did not look with favor.

Why does God look favorably on one and unfavorably on the other?

God is not rejecting Cain but his offering. He could do better.

Cain's inappropriate response

Genesis 4:5b (NIV)
So Cain was very
angry, and his face
was downcast.

How angry was Cain?

מַאֲדַּם meod - (very)
vehemently,
exceedingly

חָרָה charah - *to burn*
or be kindled with
anger. To glow

He shows it in his face.

Cain's error and why it is inappropriate:
He is interpreting the rejection of his offering as a
rejection of Him.

God Cares About Cain

Genesis 4:6-7 ⁶ Then the Lord said to Cain, “Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast? ⁷ If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must

God doesn't say anger is sin, but as an entry point for sin.
master it.”

God cares enough:

To notice Cain's emotional state.

To offer Cain a proper solution to his emotional state.

To warn Cain of the consequences of not making the correction.

The background of the slide is a painting depicting the biblical story of Cain and Abel. Cain is shown on the left, holding a stone over his brother Abel, who is lying on the ground on the right. The scene is set in a field with trees in the background. The overall color palette is warm, with shades of orange and yellow.

Cain commits the ultimate sin.

- Genesis 4:8 (NIV)
8 Now Cain said to his brother Abel, “Let’s go out to the field.” And while they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother Abel and killed him.

Why turn his anger on his brother? Wasn’t the issue with God?

The murder is pre-meditated (planned out).

Abel is like a sheep led to the slaughter.

God gives Cain an opportunity to confess

Genesis 4:9

Then the Lord said to Cain, “Where is your brother Abel?”
“I don’t know,” he replied. “Am I my brother’s keeper?”

Why did God ask him where his brother was?

Cain lies!

He jokes, “Am I my brother’s keeper (hedge, guardian – the function of a Shepherd).”

There was no remorse or confession.

The first death of a human was by murder.

Nothing is hidden from God

Genesis 4:10 The Lord said, “What have you done? Listen! Your brother’s blood cries out to me from the ground.

Revelation 6:9-10 (NIV)
⁹ When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God and the testimony they had maintained. ¹⁰ They called out in a loud voice, “How long, Sovereign Lord, holy and true, until you judge the inhabitants of the earth and avenge our blood?”

God's Judgment of Grace

Genesis 4:11-12 (NIV)

¹¹ Now you are under a curse and driven from the ground, which opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand.

¹² When you work the ground, it will no longer yield its crops for you. You will be a restless wanderer on the earth."

He is fired from his occupation. The ground will no longer produce.

He will be a wanderer.

Cain still refuses to repent.

Genesis 4:13-14 (NIV)

¹³ Cain said to the Lord, “My punishment is more than I can bear. ¹⁴ Today you are driving me from the land, and I will be hidden from your presence (NET – I must hide from your presence); I will be a restless wanderer on the earth, and whoever finds me will kill me.”

He shows no remorse.
He wallows in self-pity.
There will be no more
worship of God until
the birth of Seth.

Who is “whoever finds
me”?

The word for “kill” is
the same as when
he “killed” his
brother

God, in mercy, protects Cain

Genesis 4:15-16 (NIV)

¹⁵ But the Lord said to him, “Not so; if anyone kills Cain, he will suffer vengeance seven times over.” Then the Lord put a mark on Cain so that no one who found him would kill him. ¹⁶ So Cain went out from the Lord’s presence and lived in the land of Nod, east of Eden.

Why does God show mercy to Cain?

Neither Cain or his descendants would worship God.

All of God descendants would be destroyed in the flood.

There is still a Sibling Rivalry Going

The First born of the
Flesh.

If they worship God
at all it is out of
Obligation.

Controlled by
emotions.

Unrepentant

Hate their brothers

Show no remorse

Run from God

The Second born of
the Spirit.

Worship God in faith,
giving God their best.

Have control of their
emotions.

Repentant

Love their brothers

Show remorse.

Chase after God

Are you a Cain or an
Abel?