

Why Are You Angry?

Introduction & Review

- We have seen the destructive nature of sin in the relationship between God and humanity – shame & fear (Gen. 3:7-8).
- We have seen the harmful effects of sin for the woman – pain in childbirth & reluctant submission in marriage (Gen. 3:16).
- We have seen the harmful effects of sin for the man – pain in providing for his family & physical death (Gen. 3:17-19).
- We have seen the harmful effects of sin in marriage – shame, blame, strife, hardship in labor.
- We have seen the initial effects of sin in the first children of humanity & their worship of God (Gen. 4:1-7).

I. Conflict among Siblings (Gen. 4:6-8)

A. Irreconcilable conflict (Gen. 4:6-7)

Anger: righteous & unrighteous (Eph. 4:26). Righteous anger is unselfish with godly motives & it is constructive. Unrighteous anger is the anger of man (Jas. 1:19-20) – about issues of man. Unrighteous anger is unreasonable (Gen. 4:6-7). God pleads & reasons with Cain before he acts on his anger. Cain was angry because Abel obeyed God in faith & he did not (Heb. 11:4) – angry with Abel & God [unreasonable & unjustified]. Cain was given an opportunity to repent, but he would not.

B. Premeditated harm (Gen. 4:8)

Unrighteous anger is filled with pride (Jas. 4:1-2b) – leads to jealousy, envy, hatred & even vengeance. Unrighteous anger has to win at any cost – “his brother”. Unrighteous anger is filled with hatred & results in premeditated murder (4:8; 1Jn. 3:12, 15) – deception to harm like the devil.

APPL: We don't/can't know which children will be converted – Cain (unbeliever) & Abel (believer). A child's sin may be more destructive than parents'. **The first person to die in the scriptures was a saint, martyr & a sibling: the grave & eternal life.** So a believer must learn to express anger biblically – no blow up (Pr. 29:11; Jas.1:19) or clam up (Eph. 4:26b), but wisely & graciously speak the truth (Eph. 4:29).

II. Conflict with God (Gen. 4:9-10)

A. God seeks a confession (Gen. 4:9)

God again takes the initiative with the sinner for confession (4:9a). Unrepentant & unconfessed sin leads to further sinning. Adam & Eve reluctantly confessed their sin, but Cain blatantly lies (4:9b). Cain now becomes a liar & murderer like the devil whom he serves. Cain knew that he had (we have) a responsibility for other people – “am I my brother's keeper”. We cannot ignore the care of people around us (Gal. 6:10; Lk. 10:29-37; Phil. 2:4).

B. God completely exposes guilt (Gen. 4:10)

The first human being created in God's image has been murdered with premeditation & with no remorse or guilt – “What have you done?”. God reveals to the hardened & condemned sinner that nothing is hidden from Him (4:10b).

APPL: Not even death can silence a saint of God – Abel cried to God for justice then, but also speaks to us to remain faithful until death now (Heb. 11:4). **The blood of Abel cries for justice, but the blood of Christ cries for mercy & forgiveness.**