

The Way of Cain

Jude 1:11 Woe to them! For they have gone in the way of **Cain**, have run greedily in the error of Balaam for profit, and perished in the rebellion of Korah.

Many Christians Today Have Gone In The Way Of Cain

Genesis 4:1-18 Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, and said, "I have acquired a man from the LORD."² Then she bore again, this time his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground.³ And in the process of time it came to pass that Cain brought an offering of the fruit of the ground to the LORD.⁴ Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. And the LORD respected Abel and his offering,⁵ but He did not respect Cain and his offering. And Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell.⁶ So the LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen?⁷ If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it."⁸ Now Cain talked with Abel his brother; and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him.⁹ Then the LORD said to Cain, "Where is Abel your brother?" He said, "I do not know. Am I my brother's keeper?"¹⁰ And He said, "What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood cries out to Me from the ground."¹¹ So now you are cursed from the earth, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand.¹² When you till the ground, it shall no longer yield its strength to you. A fugitive and a vagabond you shall be on the earth."¹³ And Cain said to the LORD, "My punishment is greater than I can bear!¹⁴ Surely You have driven me out this day from the face of the ground; I shall be hidden from Your face; I shall be a fugitive and a vagabond on the earth, and it will happen that anyone who finds me will kill me."¹⁵ And the LORD said to him, "Therefore, whoever kills Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold." And the LORD set a mark on Cain, lest anyone finding him should kill him.¹⁶ Then Cain went out from the presence of the LORD and dwelt in the land of Nod on the east of Eden.¹⁷ And Cain knew his wife, and she conceived and bore Enoch. And he built a city, and called the name of the city after the name of his son—Enoch.¹⁸ To Enoch was born Irad; and Irad begot Mehujael, and Mehujael begot Methushael, and Methushael begot Lamech.¹⁹ Then Lamech took for himself two wives: the name of one was Adah, and the name of the second was Zillah.²⁰ And Adah bore Jabal. He was the father of those who dwell in tents and have livestock.²¹ His brother's name was Jubal. He was the father of all those who play the harp and flute.²² And as for Zillah, she also bore Tubal-Cain, an instructor of every craftsman in bronze and iron. And the sister of Tubal-Cain was Naamah.²³ Then Lamech said to his wives: "Adah and Zillah, hear my voice; Wives of Lamech, listen to my speech! For I have killed a man for wounding me, Even a young man for hurting me."²⁴ If Cain shall be avenged sevenfold, Then Lamech seventy-sevenfold."



Q) Who is Cain?

A) The first son of Adam and Eve, who became a tiller of the soil, while his brother, Abel, was a keeper of sheep. Cain's murder of Abel became proverbial of similarly violent and destructive sins (Jude 1:11). Each of the two brothers had brought a sacrifice to the Lord (Gen 4:3–4). According to Hebrews 11:4, Abel had acted in faith by bringing a more acceptable sacrifice than that of Cain. The latter's anger flared against the divine rejection. In retaliation he killed his brother, whose offering had been accepted by God (Gen 4:5–8). In seeking a reason for Cain's inappropriate violent reaction, biblical commentary simply says that he belonged to the evil one (1 John 3:12). The Lord confronted Cain with his guilt, judged him and pronounced a curse upon him, driving him to the land of Nod, east of Eden (Gen 4:9–16). When he complained that his punishment was greater than he could bear and that someone would find him and kill him, the Lord placed a mark on Cain and promised to take seven-fold vengeance on anyone who dared to kill him. The nature of the mark is unknown.

In the land of Nod, Cain built a city and named it after his son Enoch (Gen 4:17). Through Enoch, Cain became the progenitor of a large family that during its early generations became tent-dwelling herdsmen, musicians, and fashioners of metal objects and implements (vv 18–22).

Q) Why was Cain's sacrifice not accepted?

A) Cain was not righteous, which was proved out by his actions

Hebrews 11:4 By faith Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than **Cain**, through which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts; and through it he being dead still speaks.

Q) What are the symptoms that a person is walking in the way of Cain?

A) 1. They operate in a spirit of competition and rivalry:

- It upsets them when people (especially peers) are promoted to positions above them or to ones they feel they should have. Instead of rejoicing there is jealousy.
- They don't like to hear others praised instead of them.
- In some cases they will quit their current ministry, or leave the church, as they refuse to submit to the new (or even current) leadership.
- They worship but with ulterior motives, but these motives eventually comes to light.
- They may preach the gospel and do good works but with wrong motives:

Philippians 1:15-16 Some indeed preach Christ even from envy and strife, and some also from goodwill: ¹⁶ The former preach Christ from selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing to add affliction to my chains;

- If not given public recognition and promoted according to their schedule they feel used and will quit positions.

Colossians 3:23-25 And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, ²⁴ knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ. ²⁵ But he who does wrong will be repaid for what he has done, and there is no partiality.

2. They walk in hatred and unforgiveness toward their brothers.

- The Spirit of offense, grudges & broken relationships become a way of life

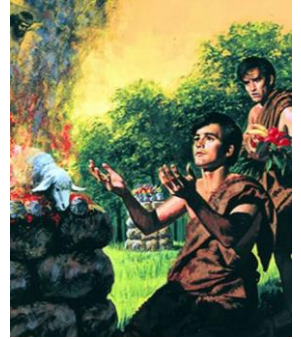
Matthew 5:21-24 "You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder, and whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment.'²² But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment. And whoever says to his brother, 'Raca!' shall be in danger of the council. But whoever says, 'You fool!' shall be in danger of hell fire.²³ Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you,²⁴ leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.

- The spirit of Cain will over-react to an offense. Cain overreacted to a *perceived* offense. His grandson Lamech boasted of killing a man for hurting him, and being avenged seventy seven times to Cain's seven times. Jesus' word about forgiving "seventy times seven" (Math. 18:22) stands in sharp contrast to Lamech's hateful vengeance.
- Vengeful - They blame other people for their faults. They project their sins onto someone else. Cain blamed Able for HIS OWN FAULTS!

3. They only want to worship and serve God their way

- They do not accept teaching or correction: God gave Cain an opportunity to learn from his mistakes (vs.7) "If you do well, will you not be accepted?"
- Today's Cain's are still attacking Able but their real beef is with God who is trying to get them into a life of true worship.
- They place their preference of sacrifice and worship above God's

We once had someone visit our church who was offended by us lifting our hands and praising God out loud. I told the person I understood they were not used to this type of worship, but who should I fear offending - them or God?



The truth of the matter is that I am not on this planet to worship you or your way. I have been created to worship God in Spirit and Truth!

- The Spirit of Cain comes into a church when people base their worship solely on their feelings and preferences apart from the scriptural standard.
- Some churches won't receive communion because it speaks of blood and could offend others!
- No lifting of hands, dancing or shouting because it requires a sacrifice of the flesh.

4. They don't want to be accountable to anyone for anything

When God called Cain to account for his brother's death, he responded with a question: "Am I my brother's keeper?" The answer is **yes** we are! We are accountable to God and have a responsibility to love our brother. Accountability is a part of this life *and* the next. We will *all* stand before the Judgment Seat of Christ to give an account for our lives.

Every now and then I will meet a minister, sometimes younger, who says in their heart, "I know more than you, preach more eloquent and have better gifts than you. I don't need you, your authority or accountability in a local body. Don't tell me how to live *my* life or run *my* ministry." They become independent and often self-promoting, starting their own para-church organizations, traveling ministries or musicians, *outside* the authority of a local body. Sometimes they start independent, unaccountable churches or home groups. They try to lift themselves up by putting me (or other pastors) or the church down. Every time that happens I see their great sacrifices for the kingdom *rejected* by God. They leave the blessing and presence of God to build their own "city". This sin opens the door for them to fail in many ways and reap heartache and havoc for them and their family. God will not be mocked. We will be responsible for how we treat our brothers!

Some people have some wonderful gifts for the Body of Christ, but because their heart is filled with pride and rebellion, those gifts will not be anointed and released by God. They won't fulfill their destiny and calling. They will be clanging symbols.

5. They become nomadic "gypsy" Christians - This is a result of the curse of Cain

Why do some people seek to escape their problems by changing churches? Today's Cain's are gypsies in the Body of Christ. "When things don't work to my advantage – bale". No church is good enough or brings contentment. They have to keep moving.

- Independent spirit
- They never bloom where they are planted
- They live their life their way

Theme song in hell:
"I Did It My Way"

Key words from Verse 12:

Fugitive: Stagger, reel, be shaken, vagrant

Vagabond: Wander aimlessly without purpose



Other Parts Of The Curse Of Cain:

- Driven from the face and presence of God
- Poverty ¹¹ *So now you are cursed from the earth, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand.* ¹² *When you till the ground, it shall no longer yield its strength to you. A fugitive and a vagabond you shall be on the earth."*

6. They are divisive and destructive to the local church

They leave a church worse than when they came and usually try to take people with them. Have you ever left a church where the people were glad you left and relieved because your attitude was gone? Or did they praise you for your blessing and accomplishments?

People think if they just get their own way and move on to another church it will be okay in their life, but they live with a mark. It may not be a physical mark like Cain had, but it is still there. Sometimes that mark is:

- Finances are never enough
- Broken relationships
- Destruction of their family
- Loss of ministry and gifts they used to have and enjoy
- Children who have a worse spirit than what the parents operated in
- Split church
- Destroyed reputation of former pastor

"The LORD set a mark on Cain"

Unless there is absolute repentance, restitution and restoration they will live with that mark the rest of their life

While it is not pleasant, sometimes New Testament Leadership have a responsibility to place a mark on divisive people:

Romans 16:17 (KJV) *Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them.*

7. They teach against local church assembly and authority - They promote new ways & doctrines, not supported by scriptures. They claim to be non-religious (choosing to do things differently than the way it has been done in the past). Unfortunately it does not have the stamp of scriptural approval. You can be religious in a non religious way. It is possible to have a religious spirit in your new way!

Just because it is different, does not mean it is God. Some people have a philosophy of: "Anything goes. Manifest and act as goofy as you want!" I have experienced some wild things in God, but they all glorified God and lined up with His Word.

One person told me about being at a revival where a man manifested like a dog. He sniffed around a chair and lifted his leg like it was a fire hydrant. He ended up wetting himself. All the while someone was in the background saying, "More Lord, more". It is no wonder people think we Charismatic's are Looney.

I heard of one person who left a revival meeting with a bunch of young people and manifested like a rooster at Starbucks. I hope they had the presence of mind to leave a big tip after acting like that! ***I am a proponent of revival, not absurdity.***

- They are upset with leaders who don't let them run the church or a ministry their way. If they don't get their way they will often quit or stop giving.
- They operate outside the authority of the body of Christ. They believe in and claim to be operating under the authority of the universal church, but will not function in and through a local body. They do not like the concept of a pastor or other leader being a spiritual authority in their life.
- They dislike the concept of being called to commitment in church membership. Everyone I have known who has this concept holds unforgiveness against some church or pastor in their past.
- They come to church when they feel like it and it is convenient for their lifestyle. They will claim that calling them to accountability is putting them under the law or hindering their ministry.

I see elements of the spirit of Cain in the church today: Seeker sensitive movement that compromises the gospel; the home church movement which preaches against authority, structure and accountability, and the revival movement which promotes unscriptural revelations, manifestations, lying signs and wonders.

My experiences through the years tells me people who name the name of Christ and do Christians works with wrong motives don't look like the devil, but they sure act like him. Their true motives will be seen in the end.

1 John 3:12 *not as Cain who was of the wicked one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his works were evil and his brother's righteous.*



Conclusion:

Some are walking in the Way of Cain today. Don't follow them. They are headed for destruction. Pray for their deliverance and speak the truth to them as the Lord leads.