

GENESIS: Where Grace Begins

From God to Far From God

*"... sin is crouching at the door; and its desire is for you, but you must master it."
- Genesis 6:7b (NIV)*

The Heart of Cain's Sin:

⁴ Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, saying, "I have gotten a man with the help of the Lord." ² And again, she bore his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, and Cain a worker of the ground. ³ In the course of time Cain brought to the Lord an offering of the fruit of the ground, ⁴ and Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat portions. And the Lord had regard for Abel and his offering, ⁵ but for Cain and his offering he had no regard. So Cain was very angry, and his face fell.

Genesis 4:1-5

Why was Cain's offering rejected? (See: Psalm 51:16-17)

His rejection made Cain _____. At this point, he still has a _____.

The Intervening Grace of God:

⁶ The Lord said to Cain, "Why are you angry, and why has your face fallen? ⁷ If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is contrary to you, but you must rule over it."

Genesis 4:6-7

God _____ him about what was in his _____ and challenges him to _____ himself at that point ... the point of his _____.

Whereas Eve had to be talked _____ her sin by the serpent, it appears that Cain would not be talked _____ of his intended sin, even by the Lord himself.

The imagery of sin "crouching" suggests something that would _____ and _____ him.

If Cain does not _____ over his desires, they will _____ over him.

*"God has endued the soul with two faculties: one is that by which it is capable of perception and speculation ... which is called the **understanding**. The other faculty is that by which the soul does not merely perceive and view things, but is some way inclined with respect to the things it views or considers. ... They are these more vigorous and sensible exercises of this faculty that are called the **affections**." (emphasis mine)*

– Jonathan Edwards, *Religious Affections*

Affections are *more* than emotions, though not less.

Edwards' scholar Gerald McDermott explains it like this: affections are "strong inclinations of the soul that are manifested in thinking, feeling, and acting."

Affections	Emotions
Long-lasting	Fleeting
Deep	Superficial
Consistent with beliefs	Sometimes overpowering
Always result in action	Often fail to produce action
Involve mind, will, feelings	Feelings (often) disconnected from the mind and will

What I most _____ and what I most _____ will determine the battle for my _____.

It is my _____ (or "affections") that ultimately decide what I _____.

When I sin, it's because I _____ to. I only ever do what I most want to do.

Our Typical Pattern:

How I _____ → controls what I _____ → which affects what I _____ → determines my view of _____

The Biblical Pattern:

_____ the truth → _____ the truth → _____ according to the truth → My _____ follow my _____

Therefore, what God wants _____ from us is our _____*.

⁴³ "For no good tree bears bad fruit, nor again does a bad tree bear good fruit, ⁴⁴ for each tree is known by its own fruit. For figs are not gathered from thornbushes, nor are grapes picked from a bramble bush. ⁴⁵ **The good person out of the good treasure of his heart produces good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure produces evil, for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.**

Luke 6:43-45

Cain's Calloused Disobedience:

⁸ Cain spoke to Abel his brother. And when they were in the field, Cain rose up against his brother Abel and killed him.

Genesis 4:8

Rejecting God's gracious word of warning, and in a clearly _____ act, Cain invites Abel out to the fields (presumably where they'd be _____) and _____ him.

The Devastating Consequence of Sin:

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 the Lord said, "What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood is crying to me from the ground. ¹¹ And now you are cursed from the ground, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. ¹² When you work the ground, it shall no longer yield to you its strength. You shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth."

¹³ Cain said to the Lord, "My punishment is greater than I can bear. ¹⁴ Behold, you have driven me today away from the ground, and from your face I shall be hidden. I shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth, and whoever finds me will kill me."

¹⁵ Then the Lord said to him, "Not so! If anyone kills Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold."

And the Lord put a mark on Cain, lest any who found him should attack him. ¹⁶ Then Cain went away from the presence of the Lord and settled in the land of Nod, east of Eden.

Genesis 4:9-16

God's question: Will you _____ your sin?

Cain's 1st response: _____ and _____.

The punishment: Cain, like the serpent, is _____.

- 1) Loss of _____
- 2) Loss of _____
- 3) Loss of _____
- 4) (Perceived) Loss of _____

If you will live without God, you will live without God.

Cain's 2nd response: _____ and _____, but not _____.

The Common Grace of God:

¹⁵ Then the Lord said to him, "Not so! If anyone kills Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold."

And the Lord put a mark on Cain, lest any who found him should attack him. ¹⁶ Then Cain went away from the presence of the Lord and settled in the land of Nod, east of Eden.

Genesis 4:15-16

- 1) God _____ Cain's life, not exacting the death penalty required later (Gen. 9:6)
- 2) His "wandering" serves as a _____ for the rest of those on the earth of what rebellion against God costs.

"Nod" =

How did Cain get there?