



Origins *of* Human Violence



Cain, Abel and the Decimation of Standards

Genesis 4:1–3 | *Cain & Abel*



[1] 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.

Genesis 4:1–3 | *Cain & Abel*



ABEL WAS A KEEPER OF SHEEP

- Sheep in Heb. = A smaller flock, portion, inheritance
- Second born son tending God's "flocks"

Genesis 4:1–3 | Cain & Abel



CAIN, A WORKER OF THE GROUND

- When no bush of the field was yet in the land and no small plant of the field had yet sprung up—for the LORD God had not caused it to rain on the land, and **there was no man to work the ground** (Gen. 2:5)
- The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to **work it and keep it**. (Gen. 2:15)
- The firstborn Cain is operating in humanity’s divine mandate “husband” Gods creation.

Genesis 4:3-5 | *Cain & Abel*

[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 4:6-7 | Cain & Abel



[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 | *Cain & Abel Spirits*



ABEL SPIRIT

- Steward your portion with devotion to the provider
- Give the best and first portion of your inheritance

CAIN SPIRIT

- Abdicates mandate to husband creation
- Entitled - the best for himself

Desire & Sin | *Cain & Abel Spirits*

UNRULY DESIRE

- Lustful, instinctual desires
- Children and their tantrums
- If you cannot order your internal world you must control other people's behavior

SIN & MISSING THE MARK

- What we aim at determines what we see
- Goal guided behavior charts a course to the “end”
- The Glory we've been created to exhibit - **Rom. 3:23**

Sacrifice | *Cain & Abel Spirits*

A decorative graphic in the top right corner consisting of several overlapping red handprints of varying sizes, some with fingers spread and some with fingers curled.

SACRIFICE IS AN EXERCISE IN MASTERING DESIRE

- Give up what is most valuable now for a future gain
- Trains us in delayed gratification
- Forces us to honor the reality of the community of “self”
 - The present, past and future “self”
- Keeps the goal/aim ever before us

Genesis 4:8-10 | Cain & Abel

[8] Cain spoke to Abel his brother. And when they were ***in the field***, Cain rose up against his brother Abel 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 the LORD said, “What have you done? The voice of your brother’s ***blood is crying to me*** from the ground.

Murder | *Origin of Violence*

A graphic of several red handprints, some overlapping, located in the upper right corner of the slide.

CAINS RESPONSE | TWO CHOICES

1. Submit to God's standard. Heed the call to become more than we already are and grow into His promises for us.
 2. Murder the earthly representation that holds us to the God's eternal standard.
- The origin of human violence is a refusal to grow spiritually
 - You can either grow spiritually or decimate God's standards

Decimation = *Latin for execute a 10th*

FRATRACIDE

- Marked for death by the ruling power for disobedience and/or desertion
- Random / arbitrary selection
- Sentence carried out by our “brothers”
- Cain & Abel in culture



Cultural Analysis | *Decimation & Violence*



GENDER CONFUSION

- Original meaning was about gendered nouns referring to self evident biological sex

RACISM

- No longer about skin color but about power

SILENCE IS VIOLENCE

- Perfectly encapsulates the theory of the origins of violence. *“You resist my demands for growth and you’re the violent actor in culture!”*

John 15:3-6 | *Solution*

[3] Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. [4] Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot **bear fruit** by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. [5] I am the vine; you are the branches.

Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that **bears much fruit**, for apart from me you can do nothing. [6] If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned.

John 15:7-8 | *Solution*



[7] If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. [8] By this my Father is glorified, that you ***bear much fruit*** and so prove to be my disciples. [9] As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love.



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