

09-21-14

Series: The Anatomy of a Church

The Anatomy of a Church (31)

Pastor Eddie Ildefonso

[Acts 20:28](#)

(Continuation from 09/17/14)

PERSONAL HOLINESS

STRUGGLE AND CONFESSION: THE BELIEVER IS TO BE FREE FROM THE LAW, [Romans 7:1-25](#)

The Third Lament

[Romans 7:21-23 \(NASB\)](#)

²¹ I find then the principle that evil is present in me, the one who wants to do good.

²² For I joyfully concur with the law of God in the inner man,

²³ but I see a different law in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin which is in my members.

[Genesis 4:5 \(NASB\)](#)

⁵ But for Cain and for his offering He had no regard. So Cain became very angry and his countenance fell.

[\(Genesis 4:5\) Cain— Anger](#): This scene is Cain's reaction. He became angry—very angry—and downcast. The Hebrew is descriptive in picturing Cain's reaction: he burned with anger, ferocious anger, and his face and countenance fell and were downcast. Cain was furious, full of rage and malice, and his face showed it. He walked around looking downcast, deeply disappointed.

Cain was angry at God for not accepting and blessing his worship. He was angry because he could not approach and worship God as he wanted, because he was told that he was not acceptable to God if he did not worship God through the sacrifice of an innocent life. He should have been angry at himself, for his own unbelief and hypocrisy. Cain was the one at fault; he was the one who had disobeyed God and approached God in his own strength, with the works of his own hands. As soon as he felt his face and countenance fall, he should have fallen to his knees, begged for forgiveness, and repented of his unbelief and hypocrisy.

Cain was also angry with his brother, filled with envy and jealousy against his brother. Why? Because God had accepted and blessed the worship of Abel. Cain resented and despised Abel. He was furious because Abel was full of assurance and confidence, because Abel had done exactly what God had said, and God had richly blessed Abel. Again, Cain should have been angry at himself, repented, and begged God for forgiveness, but he refused and reacted instead.

Psalm 37:8 (NASB)

⁸ Cease from anger and forsake wrath; Do not fret; *it leads* only to evildoing.

Proverbs 14:17 (NASB)

¹⁷ A quick-tempered man acts foolishly, And a man of evil devices is hated.

Proverbs 16:23 (NASB)

²³ The heart of the wise instructs his mouth And adds persuasiveness to his lips.

Proverbs 16:32 (NASB)

³² He who is slow to anger is better than the mighty, And he who rules his spirit, than he who captures a city.

Proverbs 22:24 (NASB)

²⁴ Do not associate with a man *given* to anger; Or go with a hot-tempered man,

Ecclesiastes 7:9 (NASB)

⁹ Do not be eager in your heart to be angry, For anger resides in the bosom of fools.

Matthew 5:22 (NASB)

²² But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother shall be guilty before the court; and whoever says to his brother, 'You good-for-nothing,' shall be guilty before the supreme court; and whoever says, 'You fool,' shall be guilty *enough to go* into the fiery hell.

Colossians 3:8 (NASB)

⁸ But now you also, put them all aside: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive speech from your mouth.

Genesis 4:6-7 (NASB)

⁶ Then the LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen?"

⁷ "If you do well, will not *your countenance* be lifted up? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door; and its desire is for you, but you must master it."

(Genesis 4:6-7) Warning: This scene is God's warning. This is a striking scene, a scene of God's love and compassion. Despite Cain's terrible sin of false worship, of unbelief and apostasy, God was willing to forgive Cain. In fact, God wanted Cain to repent and to approach God through sacrifice. God was not willing for Cain to perish, not without God first reaching out and trying to save Cain.

God drives **four points** home to the heart of Cain.

1. If you do what is right, you will be accepted. Note that God asks several questions of Cain:

⇒ Why are you angry?

⇒ Why is your face and countenance downcast?

09-21-14

Series: The Anatomy of a Church

Note that God answers the questions Himself by asking Cain another question:

⇒ If you do what is right, will you not be accepted?

God used questions to stir Cain to think about right and wrong worship, about the right and wrong approach to God, about the right and wrong offering to secure God's approval. God longed for Cain to repent and to bring the right sacrifice, to approach God in the right way: by the sacrifice of an innocent life.

2. If you do not do what is right, then sin lies at the door. Doing right means approaching God properly, just like a person should. Abel's approach by animal sacrifice was doing right; therefore, his worship and approach to God was accepted. Cain's approach was not *doing right*; therefore, his offering was not accepted.

Cain did not do what was right; he did not approach and worship God as he should. **Note: God calls this sin.** Failing to approach and worship God as He dictates is sin. The picture of sin painted by the Hebrew is graphic: sin is like a wild beast crouching at the door of a person's house, ready to jump upon and devour the person.

But note: this is a particular sin, the sin of a false worship, of a false approach to God. It is this particular sin that is so fierce and ferocious.

Note this also: this is the first time the word **sin (chattath)** is mentioned in the Bible. It means to miss the mark just like an archer who misses his mark. Cain had missed the mark in his approach to God. He had approached and worshipped God, but his approach and worship had missed God.

3. Sin desires to have you. The sinful false worship—the sin of offering your own goodness and works, ritual and ceremony to God, the sin of personal goodness and righteousness—wants to enslave and devour you, to possess you. This particular sin, the sin of false worship and of a false approach to God, will lead to more and more sin. It will devour you and lead you into more and more self-righteousness and self-sufficiency.

4. You must master sin. You must approach and worship God as He dictates. You must *approach* God through sacrifice, and *depend* upon God for His presence and power to conquer and overcome sin.

1 Corinthians 10:13 (NASB)

¹³ **No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.**

Ephesians 3:20 (NASB)

²⁰ **Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us.**

09-21-14

Series: The Anatomy of a Church

Note Cain's silence. No response is mentioned. Apparently, he never responded to God. He chose to continue on in his sin of false worship, of approaching God as he wished. He just continued to reject sacrifice as the only approach to God.

John 14:6 (NASB)

⁶ Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me."

John 14:9 (NASB)

⁹ Jesus said to him, "Have I been so long with you, and yet you have not come to know Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; how *can* you say, 'Show us the Father'?"

1 Timothy 2:5 (NASB)

⁵ For there is one God, *and* one mediator also between God and men, *the* man Christ Jesus.

1 John 5:4-5 (NASB)

⁴ For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.

⁵ Who is the one who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?