

MY BROTHER'S KEEPER

The brotherhood of man: The belief, feeling, or hope that all men should regard and treat one another as brothers, since we all came from God.

The first chapters in the book of Genesis are not only about the Creation story; they are also about human _____.

Genesis 1.26,27: “Let us make man in our image, in our likeness;” and so God created man in his own image, in the image of God He created Him; male and female He created them.

God’s world was turned upside down because of one word, and that word was “_____.”

Genesis 4.9: Then the Lord said to Cain, “Where is your brother Abel?” “I don’t know,” he replied. “Am I my brother’s keeper?”

The Living Bible: “How should I know? Am I supposed to keep track of him wherever he goes?”

The English Revised Version: “I don’t know. Is it my job to watch over my brother?”

The purpose of God’s question was to give Cain an opportunity to _____ and to turn to God.

But Cain lied, using a denial and a question.

What does “my brother’s keeper” means to us as modern day followers of Jesus?

When God asked Cain “what have you done,” he was expressing his _____ at what Cain had done, his attempt at deception, and his unconcern for his brother’s life. Cain may have thought his sin was done in the field with no one watching, but God told him that his brother’s blood was crying out from the ground.

Sin is not something we will ever be able to hide or run away from – not only because God sees all we do, but also because sin itself carries the seeds of the condemnation of the sinner.

Numbers 32.23: “But if you fail to do this, you will be sinning against the Lord; and you may be sure that your sin will find you out.”

The ground opened its mouth to receive the shed blood of Abel, and that blood was now crying out to God.

God pronounced a curse on Cain which doomed him to be a fugitive and a vagabond on the earth, and worst of all, he was _____ and isolated from God.

Estrangement from God is what sin brings about.

Robert Louis Stevenson: Everybody soon or late sits down to a banquet of consequences.

Cain had tried to act as if his brother's welfare was none of his concern, but God considers our relation with others as inseparably _____ with our relation to Him.

Thus, Cain's sin caused his face to be hid from God.

Genesis 4.16: Cain went out from the Lord's presence and lived in the land of Nod, east of Eden.

WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THE STORY OF CAIN AND ABEL?

1. ALL OF US ARE CREATED IN THE _____.

We need to be reminded that in all our affairs with each other we carry God's image without and within.

2. WE ARE ALL _____.

There is a reason we are of different colors, different origins and backgrounds, different languages and tongues – diversity itself is the result of God's _____!

And yet, we are all brothers, connected and woven into this tapestry we call humanity.

3. IN SPITE OF THE SIN THAT SEPARATED MANKIND FROM OUR CREATOR, GOD DID NOT _____ ON US!

To remind us of his unfailing and eternal love for us and to share his message of love, God sent his only-begotten Son.

1 John 4.20-21: If anyone says, "I love God," yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen."

Hebrews 13.1: Keep on loving each other as brothers.

Galatians 5.13: You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love.

Be your brother's keeper by the way you treat one another and by the way you love one another.

Be your brother's keeper because when we do, we are brought closer to the God who created us and who loves us in spite of ourselves.