

FELLOWSHIP – CAIN AND ABEL

1 John 3:10-12

INTRODUCTION

A. Our text:

1. V. 11 – “From the beginning” – the beginning of the Gospel – the message – JN 13:34 – was the time it was announced.
2. Love was always enjoined; but the love of the Christ which disciples would share was truly new in the beginning in the ministry of Jesus.
3. V. 12 – Why Cain? Why was Cain mentioned?
 - (a) Cain was glorified by the Gnostics as one who believed that fleshly works were not sinful respecting the spirit.
 - (b) That it was a familiar case.
4. V. 12 – “Slew” – σφάζω - sphazo/sfad-zo – “to slay, slaughter, butcher; to put to death by violence; mortally wounded” - Those who suffer persecution for doing right are not merely killed; they are sacrificed. Paul in RO 8:36 quotes David in PS 44:22; cf. JE 12:3.
5. John used Cain as a negative example. We should love, and not be as Cain who slew his brother. Anything that works evil toward one’s brother is not love. RO 13:10.
6. Why did Cain slay Abel? He “was of that wicked one” – that is the devil. Cain was evil! Cain was prompted by the devil and under the devil’s influence. JN 13:2.
7. Why slay Abel? Abel had “righteous” works. Cain’s sacrifice was evil and he was rebuked by God. Cain did not offer the first and best of his labors.

B. GE 4:1-8.

DISCUSSION

I. CAIN AND ABEL

- A. Cain.
- B. Abel.

II. THE SIN OF CAIN.

- A. 1 JN 3:4.
- B. Cain’s offering transgressed God’s will.
- C. Abel’s offering conformed to God’s will.

III. GOD TOLD THEM WHAT TO DO!

- A. Abel’s sacrifice was offered by faith. HE 11:4, 6; RO 10:17.
- B. Abel’s works were righteous. 1 JN 3:12; HE 11:4; LK 1:6.
- C. Abel’s offering was pleasing to God. GE 4:4; 1 JN 3:22.

IV. WHY EACH MAN DID AS HE DID

- A. Feared God.
- B. Respected God.
- C. Believed God.
- D. Loved God.
- E. Came to know God.

CONCLUSION

- A. In the beginning of the Gospel we were told to love one another.
- B. We should not be as the murderer Cain who slew his brother because Abel’s works were righteous.
- C. Cain was motivated by the evil one instead of by love. All the Cain’s of the world hate Christians.
- D. The world loves its own and is prejudiced toward those who are different. We have passed into life when we love. A hater is a murderer and abides in death.

- E. True love lays down its life for the brethren, and it is not a word-or-tongue type of love; it exists in actions and more in truth or reality. This type of love gives what a brother needs, and it does not confine, stifle, or shut up compassion.