

## Questions God Asks: Where Is Your Brother?

Text: Genesis 4:1-16

In the course of time Cain brought some of the fruits of the soil as an offering to the LORD. <sup>4</sup> And Abel also brought an offering—fat portions from some of the firstborn of his flock. The LORD looked with favour on Abel and his offering, <sup>5</sup> but on Cain and his offering he did not look with favour.” **(Gen 4:3-5)**

“Cain...Abel...Abel...Cain.”

Why did God reject Cain’s offering?

By faith Abel brought God a better offering than Cain did. By faith he was commended as righteous, when God spoke well of his offerings. And by faith Abel still speaks, even though he is dead. **(Hebrews 11:4)**

<sup>18</sup> You have not come to a mountain that can be touched and that is burning with fire; to darkness, gloom and storm... <sup>22</sup> But you have come to Mount Zion, to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem.... You have come to God, the Judge of all, to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, <sup>24</sup> to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel. **(Hebrews 9:18-22)**

“Where is your brother Abel?” Cain replied, “I do not know; am I my brother’s keeper?” **(Gen 4:9)**

Where is your brother? Where is your sister?

1. Our responsibility toward our neighbours.
2. Our responsibility toward our enemies.
3. Our responsibility toward the wider world.

**(1) God’s Word TEACHES that we are our brother’s keeper.**

“Religion that God the Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress.” **(James 1:27)**

“Anyone who does not do what is right is not a child of God; nor is anyone who does not love his brother. If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him?” **(1 John 3:10, 17)**

<sup>14</sup> What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? <sup>15</sup> Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. <sup>16</sup> If one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,” but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? <sup>17</sup> In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. **(James 2:14-17)**

“loose the chains of injustice—set the oppressed free—share food with the hungry—provide the poor with shelter—clothe the naked.” **(Isaiah 58)**

*“As long as it is day, we must do the work of Him Who sent Me. Night is coming, when no one can work.” (John 9:4)*

*“The primary reason Jesus calls us to servanthood is not just because other people need our service. It is because of what happens to US when we serve.” John Ortberg*

**(2) Our WITNESS depends on it.**

*“Faith alone justifies, yet faith is never alone. It is never without love; if love is lacking, neither is there faith, but mere hypocrisy.” Martin Luther*

“Where is your brother?”

“Where is your sister?”

Will you hear God’s question as a call to give thought to your responsibility toward others?