

Brother's Keeper

Gen.4:9

- Who Is My Brother?
- Where Is My Brother?
- Am I My Brother's Keeper?
- Resulting Blessings

From [Gen.4:3-9](#), we have a question from a man, who was not true to his brother.

Notice the passage...

- “in process of time, it came to pass,
that Cain **BROUGHT** of the fruit of the ground, an offering unto the Lord.
⁴ And Abel, he also **BROUGHT** of the firstlings of his flock, and of the fat thereof.

And the Lord had **RESPECT** unto Abel, and to his offering:

⁵ but unto Cain and to his offering, He had **NOT** respect.

And Cain was very **WROTH**, and his countenance **FELL**.

⁶ And the Lord said unto Cain, **WHY art thou Wroth?** and **WHY is thy countenance Fallen?**

⁷ **IF** thou **DOEST WELL**, shalt thou not **Be ACCEPTED?**

and **IF** thou **Doest NOT well**, **SIN lieth** (or is nearby, or is crouching) **at the door**.

And unto thee, shall be his desire (that is, sin desires to have us),

and thou shalt rule over him (that is, we must rule over sin).

⁸ And Cain talked with Abel **his brother**: and it came to pass, when they were in the field,
that **Cain rose up AGAINST Abel**, his brother, and **SLEW** him.

⁹ And the Lord said unto Cain, **WHERE is Abel thy brother?**

And he said, I know not: Am I my **Brother's Keeper?**” (that's [Gen.4:3-9](#))

The man seemed to have insulted God, for even asking the question! ...but God knew the answer.
Notice God's response, to Cain's Question.

- God said, “**WHAT** hast thou **DONE?**
the **VOICE** of thy brother's blood, **CRIETH unto Me from the ground.**” ([Gen.4:10](#))

Cain's question, “Am I my Brother's Keeper?”, has come down through the ages,
but the Answer has always been, YES!

The title of the lesson is “**Brother's Keeper**”, in which we'll look at,

- **Where Is My Brother?**
- **Am I My Brother's Keeper?**
- **The Resulting Blessings** (of being a “Brother's Keeper”)

..but first, let's consider,

I. Who IS My Brother?

The Bible informs us that we have a,

A. Common Source, for a brotherhood bond

We are told that God,

- “hath made of **ONE BLOOD**, all nations of men, for to dwell on, all the face of the earth, ” ([Acts 17:26a](#))
- In fact, “we are the offspring of God...” ([Acts 17:29a](#))

When we consider, “Who is My Brother”, consider that...

B. Christ Died for ALL

- Jesus said, “And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw **all men** unto Me.” ([Jn.12:32](#))

- “we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the **SUFFERING** of death, **CROWNED** with glory and honour; that He, by the **GRACE of God**, should **TASTE death**, for **every man**.” ([Heb.2:9](#))

- Peter said, “Of a truth, I perceive that **God is NO respecter of persons**: ³⁵ but **in every nation**, he that feareth Him, and worketh RIGHTEOUSNESS, is accepted with Him.” ([Acts 10:34-35](#))

When we consider, “Who is My Brother”, we should consider that,

C. The Great Commission was for ALL

Jesus said,

- “Go ye therefore, and **TEACH all nations**, **BAPTIZING** them **IN the Name** of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit:” ([Matt.28:19](#))
- “Go ye into **all the world**, and **PREACH** the gospel to **every creature**.
¹⁶ He that believeth **AND** is baptized shall be **SAVED**;
but he that believeth **NOT**, shall be **DAMNED**.” ([Mk.16:15-16](#))

Also, when we consider, “Who is My Brother”, consider that,

D. The Great Invitation is for ALL

- Jesus said, “**COME** unto Me, **all ye** that **LABOUR**, and are heavy laden, and I will **GIVE** you **rest**.” ([Matt.11:28](#))
- “the Spirit and the bride say, **COME**. And let him that **HEARETH** say, Come.
And let him that is **ATHIRST** come. And **whosoever** **WILL**, let him **TAKE** the **WATER of Life** freely.” ([Rev.22:17](#))

The title of the lesson is “*Brother’s Keeper*”, in which one should consider,

II. Where IS My Brother?

Cain’s brother was Dead Physically, because of **CAIN**.

A. Many of Our Brothers are Dead SPIRITUALLY, because of SIN

- Christians “**KNOW**, that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness.” ([1Jn.5:19](#))

Some have **NOT LOOKED** for Truth.

- “**IF** any man will **DO** His will, (or has a **WILL**, to do His will, is the idea) he shall **KNOW** of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself.” ([Jn.7:17](#))

For those who have **NOT** Looked for Truth, there will come a time when,

- “the Lord Jesus shall **Be REVEALED** from heaven, with His **MIGHTY** angels, **IN** flaming FIRE, taking VENGEANCE on them, that **KNOW NOT** God, and that **OBEY NOT** the gospel, of our Lord Jesus Christ:” ([2Thess.1:7b-8](#))

Some have **MISUSED** the Truth.

- The Bible confirms, “...they that are **UNlearned** and **UNstable** **WREST** (or Twist), as they **DO** also the other SCRIPTURES, unto their **OWN DESTRUCTION**.” ([2Pet.3:16](#))

Jesus said concerning some,

- “**IN VAIN**, they **Do** worship Me, **TEACHING** for Doctrines, the commandments **OF MEN**.” ([Matt.15:9](#))

There are others, who Found the Truth, but TURNED AWAY.

- Jesus said, "If a man abide **NOT IN Me**, he is **CAST forth** as a branch, and is **WITHERED**; and men gather them, and **CAST** them into the fire, and they are **BURNED**." ([Jn.15:6](#))
- "So then because thou art **LUKEWARM**, and **NEITHER** cold nor hot, I will spue thee **OUT** of My mouth." ([Rev.3:16](#))

The title of the lesson is "**Brother's Keeper**", in which one should consider,

III. Am I, My Brother's Keeper?

Consider,

A. The Meaning of the Question:

- Is there ANY way in which I, or you, have an obligation to him (our brother)?
- Does God hold me responsible to ANY extent, for his destiny?

Cain seemed to take for granted,

...his obligation, and his responsibility, for his brother's destiny.

In contrast, Andrew's first thought, was for his...

B. Brother's Welfare

Consider the text of [Jn.1:35-42](#), Where the Bible says,

- "the next day after John stood, and two of his disciples;
³⁶ and **LOOKING** upon Jesus, as he walked, he saith, **Behold the Lamb of God!**
³⁷ And the two disciples **HEARD** him speak, and they **FOLLOWED** Jesus.

³⁸ Then Jesus turned, and saw them following, and saith unto them, **What SEEK ye?**
They said unto him, Rabbi, (which is to say, being interpreted, Master,) **where dwellest thou?**

³⁹ He saith unto them, **COME** and **SEE**. They **CAME** and **SAW** where he dwelt,
and **ABODE with Him** that day: for it was about the tenth hour.

⁴⁰ One of the two, which heard John speak, and followed him, was **Andrew**, Simon Peter's **brother**.
⁴¹ He first **FINDETH** his own **BROTHER** Simon, and saith unto him,
We have found the Messiah, which is, being interpreted, the Christ.
⁴² And **he BROUGHT him To Jesus**.

And when Jesus beheld him, He said, Thou art Simon the son of Jona:
thou shalt be called Cephas, which is by interpretation, A stone." (that's [Jn 1:35-42](#))

Sadly some, LACK a proper Spiritual CONCERN, for the WELFARE of our Brother.

Paul had a proper concern.

- He said, "Brethren, my **HEART's** desire and prayer to God, **FOR Israel is**,
that they **MIGHT** be **SAVED**." ([Rom.10:1](#))

What about us?

C. Do We Bear Any Responsibility, As Our Brother's Keeper?

Some would proclaim, "Don't burden yourself with worry; THEY are responsible for their own selves".

The Bible says when Paul ,

- "...**EXPOUNDED** and **TESTIFIED** the kingdom of God, **PERSUADING** them concerning Jesus, both **OUT** of the law of Moses, and **OUT** of the prophets, **FROM** morning **TILL** evening.
²⁴ And **SOME BELIEVED** the things which were spoken, and **SOME BELIEVED NOT**." ([Acts 28:23b-24](#))

Paul believed he was a brother's keeper.

Through his spiritual effort, Some believed, but some didn't believe.

We need to make sure, that those who choose **NOT** to believe,

Wasn't because, of **OUR** wrong **INFLUENCE**.

- The Bible says, "Let us **NOT** therefore judge one another, any more: but **JUDGE THIS** rather, that **NO** man, **PUT** a stumblingblock, **OR** (PUT) an occasion to fall, **IN his brother's way**." ([Rom.14:13](#))

Where is our Brother, morally and spiritually, as Result of our Influence?

To have laughed at an evil joke, or Spoken thoughtless words,

Must have had, some influence over others.

- The Bible says, "...**Be BLAMELESS** and **HARMLESS**, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the **MIDST** of a crooked and perverse **NATION**, among whom, ye **SHINE** as **LIGHTS** in the world; ¹⁶ **HOLDING FORTH**, the **WORD** of **LIFE**;" ([Phil.2:15-16a](#))

"Am I My Brother's Keeper" ([Gen.4:9](#))?

D. Cain's Question, Must Be Answered

Jesus said,

- "Ye are the **SALT** of the earth: but **IF** the **SALT** have lost his savour, **wherewith shall it be salted?** it is thenceforth good **FOR NOTHING**, but to be **CAST OUT**, and to be **TRODDEN** under foot of men.

¹⁴ Ye are the **LIGHT** of the world. A city that is set on an hill, cannot be hid.

¹⁶ Let your **LIGHT** so shine before men, that they may **SEE** your good **WORKS**, and **GLORIFY** your Father, which is IN Heaven." (reads [Matt.5:13-14,16](#))

Cain's Question, must be answered, As...

We Have An Obligation To the Lost.

- "And the things that thou hast **HEARD** of me, among many witnesses, the same **COMMIT** thou to **FAITHFUL** men, who shall be **ABLE to TEACH** others also." ([2Tim.2:2](#))

Cain's Question, must be answered,

To the weak.

- "We then that are strong, **OUGHT** to bear the infirmities of the weak, and **NOT** to please ourselves." ([Rom.15:1](#))
- "Now we exhort you, brethren, **WARN** them that are unruly, **COMFORT** the feebleminded, **SUPPORT** the weak, **Be PATIENT** toward all men." ([1Thess.5:14](#))

Cain's Question, must be answered,

To the Erring.

- “Brethren, **IF** a man be **OVERTAKEN in a FAULT**, ye which are Spiritual, **RESTORE** such an one, **IN** the **SPIRIT** of meekness; **CONSIDERING** thyself, lest thou also **Be TEMPTED**.” ([Gal.6:1](#))
- “Brethren, **IF** any of you, **Do ERR** from the Truth, and one **CONVERT** him; ²⁰ let him know, that he which **CONVERTETH** the sinner, **From** the **ERROR of his way**, shall **SAVE** a soul from death, and shall **HIDE** a multitude of sins.” ([Jas.5:19-20](#))

Cain's Question, must also be answered,

To the Strong.

- “let us **CONSIDER** one another, to provoke **Unto LOVE**, and **To GOOD Works**.” ([Heb.10:24](#))
- “And I intreat thee also, true yokefellow, **HELP** those women which laboured with me **IN the Gospel**, with Clement also, and with other my fellowlabourers, whose **Names**, are in the **Book of Life**.” ([Phil.4:3](#))

When we are Our Brother’s Keeper, we have,

IV. Resulting Blessings

A. Negatively: We Avoid Condemnation

- God said, “...the voice of **thy brother’s blood crieth** unto Me from the ground.” ([Gen.4:10](#))

Long ago, God said, to the prophet Ezekiel,

- “When I say unto the wicked, Thou **SHALT SURELY DIE**; and thou **GIVEST** him **NOT** warning, **NOR** speakest to warn the wicked, from his **WICKED WAY**, to **SAVE** his life; the same wicked man **SHALL DIE** in his iniquity; but **his blood, will I require at thine hand**.

¹⁹ Yet if thou warn the wicked, and he turn not from his wickedness, nor from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity; but **thou hast delivered thy soul**.” ([Ezek.3:18-19](#))

Resulting Blessings of Being A Brother’s Keeper?

B. Positively: We Become Like the Lord

Through the Word, we know,

- “how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth, with the Holy Spirit, and with power: Who **went about doing good**, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with Him.” ([Acts 10:38](#))
- “For the **SON of man**, is **COME to SEEK and to SAVE** that which was lost.” ([Lk.19:10](#))

Resulting Blessings of Being A Brother’s Keeper?

C. We Assist God’s People

- “Bear ye one another’s burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.” ([Gal.6:2](#))
- “Let us therefore **FOLLOW AFTER** the things, which **MAKE for PEACE**, and things wherewith, one may **EDIFY ANOTHER**.” ([Rom.14:19](#); read also [Phil.2:2-4](#))

The title of the lesson is "Brother's Keeper".

A Resulting Blessing is,

D. We May Win Souls

King David said unto God,

- "Hide Thy face from my sins, and **BLOT OUT** all mine iniquities.
¹⁰ **CREATE** in me a clean heart, O God; and **RENEW** a right spirit within me.
¹¹ Cast me **NOT** away from Thy presence; and take **NOT** Thy Holy Spirit from me.
¹² **RESTORE** unto me the joy of Thy salvation; and **UPHOLD** me with Thy free Spirit.
¹³ Then will I **TEACH** transgressors Thy Ways; and sinner shall be **CONVERTED** unto Thee." ([Psa.51:9-13](#))

If we win souls, Then we have part, in great joy.

- Jesus said, "I say unto you, that likewise, **JOY** shall be in heaven, over **ONE SINNER** that repenteth, more than over, ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance." ([Lk.15:7](#))

There is Joy, in the heart, of the **SAVED** one.

After the Eunich was Baptized,

- "...he went on his way **REJOICING**." ([Acts 8:39b](#))

There is joy in our own life, both here and the hereafter.

- "For **WHAT** is our hope, or joy, or crown of **REJOICING**?
Are not even **YE**, in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ, **AT HIS COMING**?
²⁰ For **YE ARE**, our **GLORY** and **JOY**." ([1Thess.2:19-20](#))

V. IN-CLOSING

We may evade the question for life; But Jesus said,

- "behold, I **COME** quickly; and My **REWARD** is with Me,
to **GIVE** every man, **ACCORDING** as his work, shall be." ([Rev 22:12](#))

If we have failed to be our "**Brother's Keeper**", we need to change, or repent.

Lost one's, should not wait to be brought.

- "**SAVE YOURSELVES**, from this untoward generation." ([Acts 2:40](#))

The lesson is yours.

If you have a spiritual **NEED**, The Lord invites, and we await to assist;

- **COME** believing ([Heb.11:6](#)), repenting ([Lk.13:3](#)), confessing ([Acts 8:37](#)),
- and be Baptized **INTO** Christ Jesus ([Gal.3:26-27](#)), Where ALL spiritual blessings exist ([Eph.1:3](#))

...while together we stand and sing.

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