

Am I My Brother's Keeper?

Gen. 4:8,9 “And Cain told Abel his brother. And it came about when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him.

9 Then the LORD said to Cain, "Where is Abel your brother?" And he said, "I do not know. Am I my brother's keeper?"

Question not of innocence or ignorance –
wicked and desperate resort of one who tried to avoid justice.
He made himself a liar when denied knowing what He was.
Wicked and profane to think he could hide from God.
Unjust to deny being brother's keeper.
Obstinate and proud not to confess sin to God.

But what about now? Am I my brothers keeper?

I. World: "No!"

- A. I don't know what a he needs or where he is.
same answer as Cain – I don't know where he is - disingenuous then - and now as well.
are you a man or an ostrich?
who that looks do not see need? see hurting? see loss? so people needing God? seeking Him?
to deny a brothers need is lie like Cain
- B. He's not my brother, he's someone I can take advantage of.
denies essential humanity of others - especially weak
this is the gospel of criminals - swindlers, extortioners, thieves, bullies
Ps. 10:4-11 “The wicked, in the haughtiness of his countenance, does not seek *Him*. All his thoughts are, "There is no God."
5 His ways prosper at all times; Thy judgments are on high, out of his sight; As for all his adversaries, he snorts at them.
6 He says to himself, "I shall not be moved; Throughout all generations I shall not be in adversity."
7 His mouth is full of curses and deceit and oppression; Under his tongue is mischief and wickedness.
8 He sits in the lurking places of the villages; In the hiding places he kills the innocent; His eyes stealthily watch for the unfortunate.
9 He lurks in a hiding place as a lion in his lair; He lurks to catch the afflicted; He catches the afflicted when he draws him into his net.
10 He crouches, he bows down, And the unfortunate fall by his mighty ones.
11 He says to himself, "God has forgotten; He has hidden His face; He will never see it.”
- C. If a brother can't keep keep himself why should I do it?
right to do movement, treatment of retarded, aged
the gospel of those who just don't want to be troubled.
1 Sam. 25:3-11 “Now *there was* a man in Maon whose business was in Carmel; and the man was very rich, and he had three thousand sheep and a thousand goats. And it came about while he was shearing his sheep in Carmel
3 (now the man's name was Nabal, and his wife's name was Abigail. And the woman was intelligent and

beautiful in appearance, but the man was harsh and evil in *his* dealings, and he was a Calebite),
4 that David heard in the wilderness that Nabal was shearing his sheep.
5 So David sent ten young men, and David said to the young men, "Go up to Carmel, visit Nabal and greet him in my name;
6 and thus you shall say, 'Have a long life, peace be to you, and peace be to your house, and peace be to all that you have.
7 And now I have heard that you have shearers; now your shepherds have been with us and we have not insulted them, nor have they missed anything all the days they were in Carmel.
8 Ask your young men and they will tell you. Therefore let *my* young men find favor in your eyes, for we have come on a festive day. Please give whatever you find at hand to your servants and to your son David.'" **9** When David's young men came, they spoke to Nabal according to all these words in David's name; then they waited.
10 But Nabal answered David's servants, and said, "Who is David? And who is the son of Jesse? There are many servants today who are each breaking away from his master.
11 Shall I then take my bread and my water and my meat that I have slaughtered for my shearers, and give it to men whose origin I do not know?"
This attitude nearly cost this man his life and his possessions - if his wife hadn't gone out and been charitable and humble they would all have been killed
he died of shock and fright when he woke from a drunken stupor - and his wife and things went to another anyway

D. My brother won't keep me, why should I keep him?

this is the gospel of spite

1 Tim. 6:18 "*Instruct them* to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share"

no concern for others - only for self

brothers are only important when they are important to me

this is also the one who doesn't care about his influence or being a stumbling block

Matt. 18:5-7 "And whoever receives one such child in My name receives Me;

6 but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to stumble, it is better for him that a heavy millstone be hung around his neck, and that he be drowned in the depth of the sea.

7 Woe to the world because of *its* stumbling blocks! For it is inevitable that stumbling blocks come; but woe to that man through whom the stumbling block comes!"

Rom. 14:15 "For if because of food your brother is hurt, you are no longer walking according to love. Do not destroy with your food him for whom Christ died."

E. A man has enough to do to keep himself.

Brother stay away from me and I'll stay away from him.

spiritual and physical don't ask, don't tell.

Matt. 7:12 "Therefore, however you want people to treat you, so treat them, for this is the Law and the Prophets."

DO UNTO OTHERS - you responsibility first

This is the gospel of selfishness.

Phil. 2:3,4 "Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind let each of you regard one another as more important than himself;

4 do not *merely* look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others."

II. God: "Yes!"

A. He is your brother. Kinship should prompt you.

Prov. 18:24 "A man of *many* friends *comes* to ruin, But there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother."

Eph. 6:9 "And, masters, do the same things to them, and give up threatening, knowing that both their Master and yours is in heaven, and there is no partiality with Him."

All stand the same before God

Rom. 10:12,13 "For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same *Lord* is Lord of all, abounding in riches for all who call upon Him;

13 for "WHOEVER WILL CALL UPON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED."

do you seek their salvation?

B. He may be lost without you. Love should motivate you.

Rom. 10:1 "Brethren, my heart's desire and my prayer to God for them is for *their* salvation."

Is this your heartfelt desire for others?

Prov. 17:17 "A friend loves at all times, And a brother is born for adversity."

Are you a true friend and brother?

C. God expects you. Religion commands you.

This is the gospel of love.

Heb. 13:1 "Let love of the brethren continue."

Jas. 2:16-17 "If a brother or sister is without clothing and in need of daily food,

16 and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and be filled," and yet you do not give them what is necessary for *their* body, what use is that?

17 Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead, *being* by itself."

1 Jn. 3:15-18 "Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer; and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.

16 We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.

17 But whoever has the world's goods, and beholds his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him?

18 Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth."

This is call to missionary activity abroad and in the community.

This is call to brotherly love at home.

D. Who is my brother, my neighbor?

Luke 10:25-37 "go thou and do likewise"