



THE QUEST FOR FAMILY UNITY

- A father, mother and children, together they make a happy and flourishing family. Today, people are **staying** together under one roof but the unity and **connection** between them is **lost** somewhere. Let's think about that somewhere---
- ([Gen. 3:1-8](#)) .. There's disunity in this family because of the . . .
- 1) **Failure** of the husband to **lead** the relationship. ([Gen. 3](#)) finds Eve at a place she should not be (at the **tree** with the **forbidden** fruit).
- 2) **Failure** of the husband to **know** and carry out his **assignment** (to disciple his wife—make her like himself as he allowed God to grow him).
- Adam failed to act on what He **knew** about **God** (He didn't make animals that **talked**).— should have **protected** his wife from the lie of this enemy of God.
- Eve (**unprotected**) seeks **security** (she can't **trust** Adam's **silence** on truth

issues) – she is now **DISCONTENT**. This may have started in the home she came out of.

- If a young girl doesn't grow up knowing the **protection** and **love** of her father—she feels insecure and looks for love and security in other men.
- The serpent (the enemy of the family because he's an enemy of God) will feed a woman's insecurity and her sense of not being loved .. and it becomes an **emotional** crutch.
- Disunity happens—when the man **shirks** his responsibility before God to **lead** his family .. and/or the woman being **unprotected** because the man doesn't **lead**—becomes **discontent** in the relationship and wants something more (example .. Eve at the tree of the knowledge of good and evil).
- The “**one flesh** relationship” ([Gen. 2:24](#)) that should exist between husband and wife is hindered and **disunity** is the result.
- When **confronted** about his disobedience (his failure to stand on God's word) .. Adam **blame-shifts**. Eve follows Adam's lead and blame-shifts.
- At the **root** of disunity in the family .. is a lack of unity between husband and wife .. which is **rooted** in a lack of belief in **biblical authority** (God's word is not the **final authority** in the husband's life—nor the wife's life.
- Adam was more interested in **pleasing** his wife than **pleasing** God—Eve wanted to be **independent** of both God and Adam (the serpent said .. “*... you will be like God . . .*”
- A major issue for any Christian family is the question .. Does God **mean** what He **says?**”

- ([Gen. 3:1-7](#)) .. something happened to the **human mind**.
- ([Rom. 1:18-32](#)) –
- ([Rom. 1:21](#)) .. “They did not glorify God—neither were thankful” .. leads one to . . . exchange the **truth** of God for a **lie** (**Satan’s** lie).

Once we allow Satan to trick us into **questioning** the **truth** of God’s word (“*Has*

God said . . .” “*You shall not surely die.*” .. in our minds – God’s word is no longer **authoritative** ([Gen. 3:1, 5](#)). – You can’t have **unity** without **truth**!

We, like Eve conduct a **test** to see whether God or Satan is **right** . . . doesn’t

believe her husband or God.

1) **Observed** the tree --- “*good for food*” --- maybe God is **mistaken** .. maybe

He is over-**restrictive**. But God clearly said .. don’t eat.

2) The tree has **emotional/aesthetic** value .. made her **feel** good .. **feelings**

trumped the word of God – God said: don’t eat.

3) Tree has **intellectual** value – she would be **like** God! -- Satan’s appeal is

always to stir us to make **our own** choice .. to act **independently** of God. When

she **ate** of the forbidden fruit – her conclusion was .. God was **wrong**.

Eve encouraged her husband to eat .. and he **followed** her **lead**. --- Women

have **influence**. The man is to acknowledge that .. then **follow** God so that he can help his wife see how she can use that **influence** for the **glory** of **God**.

Men **protect** / provide .. Adam **failed** to **protect** Eve. Men .. the **leader** of the

home must **obey** God --- then he helps the **influencer channel** her influence.

Culture lies to women and tells them to focus on the **physical side** of life .. but

beauty (**God's** beauty) .. is demonstrated by an **obedient** life.

Culture lies to men and tells them they have to be **macho**. But a man's **spiritual**

leadership of his home (unlike Adam's **failure** to be the **spiritual leader** in his home) is what **pleases** God.

Men **cannot** be men without God (Abraham **dead** in his loins – 99 years old) ..

but because he was **obedient** to God – he **fathered** a child at 99 years old.

CAIN . . .

[\(4:1-7\)](#) .. this is a significant passage of Scripture. The central lesson deals with

true and false **worship**, true and false **approaches** to God. The lesson centers around the first two children born upon earth, Cain and Abel.

Cain is the chief actor in this chapter, and his **character** and **conduct** are revealed.

([4:1-5](#)) .. God's **promise** in ([Gen. 3:15](#)) and Adam's **faith** in ([Gen. 3:20](#)) [3:20](#) are both seen in ([Gen. 4:1](#)). Eve brought new **life** into the world, and she thought her child was the **promised** Seed.

- *"Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, and said, "I have acquired a man from the LORD." "Cain" means "**acquired**"—the baby boy was looked upon as a **gift** from God.*
- Abel means "**vanity**, vapor"—it suggests the **futility** of life apart from God, or Eve's **disappointment** that Cain was not the promised Seed. From the very beginning, we see a **division** of work . . .
- . . . as Cain is identified with the **ground**, Abel with the **flock**. God had already **cursed** the ground ([3:17](#)) .. so Cain is identified with that **curse**. Cain inherited that **rebellious** spirit that was prominent in his parents.
- This earliest family knew of a definite place for **worship**, for both sons brought **offerings** to the Lord. It may be that the **glory** of God tabernacled at the tree of life, with the way guarded by the cherubim ([3:24](#)).
- ([Heb. 11:4](#)) indicates that Abel brought his offering by **faith**; and ([Rom. 10:17](#)) teaches that *"**faith comes by hearing.**"* This means that God must have **taught** Adam and his family how to **approach** Him . . .

- . . . and (3:21) indicates that sacrifice of **blood** was involved. (Heb. 9:22) states that there must be the shedding of blood before there can be the **remission** of sin, but Cain brought a bloodless offering from the **cursed** earth.
- His offering may have been sincere, but it was not accepted. He had no **faith** in God's Word (did not believe in **biblical authority** / God's word) or dependence on the sacrifice of a **substitute**.
- Cain had a form of **godliness** and religion, but he denied the power (2 Tim. 3:5). (1 John 3:12) indicates that Cain was a child of the devil, and this means he practiced a **false righteousness** of the flesh, not the righteousness of God through faith.
- Jesus called the self-righteous Pharisees "**children of the devil**" and blamed their **kind** for the death of Abel (Luke 11:37-51). (Jude 11) talks about "**the way of Cain,**" -----
- -----which is the way of **religion** without blood, religion based on religious good works and **self-righteousness**. There are only two religions in the world today: (1) that of Abel that depends on the **blood** of Christ and His **finished** work on the cross . . . and . . .
- (2) that of Cain that depends on good works and **man-pleasing** religion. One leads to heaven, the other to hell!
- Keep this in mind---we have no record that Adam never addressed his **failure** as the **spiritual leader** in his home .. nor did he ever address Eve's **discontent** / **rebellion** ----- and . . .

- ([James 1:15](#)) warns us that sin begins in a **small** way, but grows and leads to death. So it was with Cain. We see **disappointment** (led to discontent – like his mother) .. anger, jealousy, and finally murder.
- The hatred in his heart led to murder with his hand ([Matt. 5:21-26](#)). ([Gal. 6:7](#)) .. we reap what we sow .. only we reap **more** than we sow.
- God saw Cain's faithless **heart** and fallen countenance and warned him that sin was crouching like a wild beast, waiting to **destroy** him. God said, "Its desire is for you, but you should rule over it."
- Alas, Cain (like his parents) **fed** the wild beast of **temptation**, then opened the door and invited him in! Cain invited his brother to talk with him, then **killed** him in cold blood.
- A child of the devil ([1 John 3:12](#)) .. Cain, like his father, was a **liar** and a **murderer** ([John 8:44](#)). In ([Gen. 3](#)) we have a man sinning against **God** by **disobeying** His Word . . .
- . . . in ([Gen. 4](#)) we have a **man** sinning against **man**. Brother sins against brother because of a lack of belief in **biblical authority** which leads to a lack of **unity**.
- ([4:9-16](#)) .. Cain did not repent of his sin – like his parents, he blamed God (vs. 4)
“ . . . You have driven me out . . . ”
- ([4:17-26](#)) .. In ([vs. 25](#)) .. God gave Adam and Eve **another** seed—**Seth**—which means "the appointed, the **substitute**" (taking Abel's place). God did not try to **reform** the Cainites . . .
- . . . He **rejected** them and ultimately would condemn them in the flood.

- As the Cainites were gradually **wandering** away from the true **worship** of God, the Sethites were **returning** to Him ([v. 26](#)) and establishing again their worship of the Lord.
- Lack of unity in the family of **God** and in the family of **Adam** and **Eve**. Some family members want the **true** worship of God—others want **religion** (**man**-centered worship).
- Please notice this: Evaluated from a **human** point of view, Cain's descendants are an **admirable** lot. Jabal ("wanderer") founded the science of **agriculture** ([vs. 20](#)) .. Jubal founded "**culture**"—**music**; and Tubal-Cain founded the **metal** industries.
- In outward appearances, Cain's "city" was a great success, but God made it clear that He had **rejected** the **whole** thing. Civilization today is **Cainite** in origin.
- It has such elements as agriculture, industry, arts, great cities, and religion without **faith** in the **blood** of Christ. Also, like Cain's civilization of old, it will be **destroyed**.
- We still have boasting **murderers** like Lamech, and we still have people (like Lamech) who **violate** the sacred vows of marriage. *"As the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of man be"* ([Matt. 24:37](#)).
- Men still reject **divine revelation** and depend on their own **human** resources.
- A lack of unity in our first parents (which was bred by a lack of **belief** in biblical authority) .. fostered men who fail to **lead** their families—women who feel **unprotected** and are thus **insecure** in relationships .. relationships where the **roles** are rebelled against . . .

- murder .. rebellion against God's **blueprint** for marriage .. and a world system (led by Satan) that **opposes** the plan and **purposes** of God. God doesn't like **discord** in his **authority** structure—one of the biggest problems we face in our society.
- **ISAAC & REBEKAH**
- **(Gen. 27:1-16) . . . Rebekah's failure –**
- Esau became an expert hunter and **outdoorsman** while Jacob “was a quiet man who **stayed** at **home** (Gen. 25:27).
- Isaac loved Esau **more** because he loved the game he provided. Rebekah loved Jacob **more**. Perhaps it was Jacob's quiet demeanor or that he was around home more.
- **Each parent had an obvious favorite (disunity in the family unit), and this had a profound effect on their family and their future.**
- The twins grew up. Esau married two **pagan, Hittite** women (part of the effect of **Cain** on the family). Jacob did not marry.
- Isaac, blind and approaching death, told Esau that he intended to extend the **traditional** head of household **blessing** to him, which would make him the family leader.
- When Rebekah overheard this, she planned to **deceive** Isaac into giving Jacob the coveted blessing (didn't **agree** with **God** and therefore didn't **agree** with each **other** concerning who would receive the blessing and be the family leader).
- This is where we want to shout, “Stop! God already told you that the **older** son would serve the **younger**. Stay out of it!”

- Rebekah **failed** to **trust** God as she had as a younger woman. Instead, she took the situation into her own hands.---
- Abraham not **firm** in leading the family .. Rebekah is **rebellious** against his leadership because she doesn't **trust** her husband or God .. she wants things her own way (**disunity**).
- When Rebekah **meddled** in the son's inheritance, she failed to trust God (meaning .. she failed to trust God's **word**) .. which leads to a mind that is lacking **stability** that makes bad decisions which breeds a lack of **unity**.
- **Consequences** of the lack of unity between Isaac and Rebekah ([Gen. 27:46](#)).
- Rebekah's plan worked; Isaac **unwittingly** blessed Jacob. But the event had terrible **results**. When Esau learned of the trickery and his loss of blessing, he plotted to **kill** his brother as soon as his father died.
- To **protect** Jacob, Rebekah convinced Isaac to send Jacob back to her family to find a wife who followed Yahweh.
- Rebekah paid a **high price** for her meddling (**disunity in the marital relationship leads to serious consequences**). There is no record that she ever **saw** her **favorite** son again.
- To add to her sorrow, Rebekah and Isaac were left to live with Esau and his **idol-worshipping** wives!
- We are told, "they were a grief of mind for Isaac and Rebekah" ([Gen. 26:35](#)).
- **When she overheard Isaac's plan to bless Esau, Rebekah had a choice.** She could **turn** to the **Lord** for help, or she could act in her own **strength**. God did not need Rebekah's "help" to make His **plan** come to pass.

- God had **promised** that Esau would serve Jacob, and He would have made it so. Rebekah's approach involved **deceit** and **lies** and did not reflect trust and faith in God. – **Deceit** and **lies** is not the way to deal with disunity in a family.
- Rebekah's intervention created **enmity** between her sons, **sorrow** for her husband, and sent her favored son **far away** for the rest of her life.
- **Manipulating** to get our way leads to disunity in the family unit—Rebekah did not finish well in life—because her **preference** for Jacob affected her judgment and clouded her faith.
- Believers need to seek God's **help** and trust Him with their **fears**.
- **Pride** .. rebellion .. and **strife** are three of the primary destroyers of family unity. We see all three in each of the examples we explored. They were **evident** in the Garden of Eden and they are quite **evident** in families today.
- There is so much more—so many more family units we could explore concerning family unity. But I pray that these will help each of us see the **importance** of family unity ([Psalm 133:1](#)) ..
- ***“Behold, how good and how pleasant it is For brethren to dwell together in unity!”***