



**Dealing With Relationship Issues  
(What Happened to My Family?)**

**October 6, 2019**

**Text: Genesis 4:1-2**

- Adam slept with Eve his wife. She conceived and had Cain. She said, “I’ve gotten a man, with God’s help!” 2 Then she had another baby, Abel. Abel was a herdsman and Cain a farmer.

**Statement:** Adam and Eve’s children were products of their family environment and their children’s personal decisions. If you want to change your family then you must change the way your family thinks and change what you teach them.

1. What did you teach your children?
2. What did you show your children?
3. What did you pass to your children?
4. What can’t you get your children to see?

**I. Adam’s Adult Children and Their Issues  
(Cain’s Issues)**

1. Cain and Abel were obviously young adults, in business, with two different mindsets.
2. Cain was a non-compliant, live his own life, and do his own thing young adult.
3. Abel was a do what he was taught to do.

**Note: Two Ways to Look at The Sacrifice of Cain and Abel (Genesis 4:3–7, The Message)**

**Setting Observation:** This is a family that talks to God face to face. (cp. Gen. 3:8; 4:6)

- 3Time passed. Cain brought an offering to God from the produce of his farm. 4 Abel also brought an offering, but from the firstborn animals of his herd, choice cuts of meat. God liked Abel and his offering, 5 but Cain and his offering didn’t get his approval. Cain lost his temper and went into a sulk. 6 **God spoke to Cain: “Why this tantrum? Why the sulking? 7 If you do well, won’t you be accepted? And if you don’t do well, sin is lying in wait for you, ready to pounce; it’s out to get you, you’ve got to master it.”**

**Note: Three Things Cain Could Say About the Sacrifice Issue**

1. I shut down and refused to answer God when confronted because I disagreed (**Note: He killed his brother, v8**)
2. Cain could say I brought **my best** work and God rejected it
3. Cain could say **it was easy for Abel** to bring a lamb, he was a herdsman

**Note: The Bible calls Cain’s attitude, “The Way of Cain.” (Jude 1:11)**



## II. Noah's Adult Children and Their Issues (Ham's Issues: Genesis 9:19–29)

19 These are the three sons of Noah; from these three the whole Earth was populated. 20 **Noah, a farmer, was the first to plant a vineyard. (Message Bible)**

21 He drank from its wine, got drunk and passed out, naked in his tent. 22 Ham, **the father of Canaan**, saw that his father was naked and told his two brothers who were outside the tent.

23 Shem and Japheth took a cloak, held it between them from their shoulders, walked backward and covered their father's nakedness, keeping their faces turned away so they did not see their father's exposed body. 24 When Noah woke up with his hangover, he learned what his youngest son had done.

25 He said, Cursed be Canaan! A slave of slaves, a slave to his brothers! 26 Blessed be God, the God of Shem, but Canaan shall be his slave. 27 God prosper Japheth, living spaciously in the tents of Shem. But Canaan shall be his slave. 28 Noah **lived another 350 years following the flood**. 29 He lived a total of **950 years**. And he died.

### Note: Three Sons and Two Responses

- **Shem and Japhaeth** responded to this embarrassing moment by covering their father's nakedness
- **Ham** responded to this moment by mocking and ignoring a culture of respect for his father
- **Genesis 9:24–29** (Bible Knowledge Commentary) Because of this incident Noah prophesied about his sons' descendants. He began with the direct words, Cursed be Canaan! However, Noah was not punishing Ham's son for something Ham did. Instead, Noah's words referred to the nation of Canaanites that would come from Ham through Canaan. Ham's act of hubris could not be left without repercussions.

### Question: What Do You See Coming To Your Family?

- What do you see down the road in the children of your family?
- What's going to happen to your siblings, nieces, nephews, and cousins?
- How were they trained to have their current life results?

### Next Time: What Happened to My Friends?

- What story does your friends tell about you? (What you like, tolerate and support?)
- Why don't you have more friends? (Is that because of your progress or toxic behavior?)
- What have your friends contributed to your life beyond fellowship and fun? (This is nice, but...?)

**Read Ahead:** 2 Corinthians 6:14 (NKJV): 14 Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness?

**Balance:** This is not a verse that requires a believer to only have believing friends. It warns us about the danger of yoking with someone.