

“Let Us Create Man in Our Image”

- Gen 1:26

Man, made in God’s image, was also created a musical being, able to express to other people and to God his thoughts and affections. Mankind’s ability to communicate is one of the most notable ways in which mankind differs from other created beings. Mankind can fellowship with and praise God. Think of it, God desires to have a worship relationship with us!

Adam and Eve enjoyed this worship relationship with God “in the cool of day” until Lucifer used his skill to tempt them to brake that relationship through disobedience. Even then, God made a way to restore this relationship through the bloody sacrifice of animals. Once again Adam and Eve’s worship relationship was restored.

Since mankind’s beginning God invited man to worship Him. Conflicts over the object of worship often ensued but God always made a way through a sacrifice for that relationship to be restored. Consider the conflict that occurred with Adam and Eve’s own sons. Genesis 4:3-12 tells us the story.

And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the LORD. 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: But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell. And the LORD said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen? If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him. 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. And the LORD said unto Cain, Where is Abel thy brother? And he said, I know not: Am I my brother’s keeper? And he said, What hast thou done? the voice of thy brother’s blood crieth unto me from the ground. And now art thou cursed from the earth, which hath opened her mouth to receive thy brother’s blood from thy hand; When thou tillest the ground, it shall not henceforth yield unto thee her strength; a fugitive and a vagabond shalt thou be in the earth.

The story offers some insight in the similarities and differences into the kind of worship God accepts. So, what was similar about these two worshipers?

- They were both farmers.
- They both brought offerings at the appointed time.
- They both heard God’s invitation.

And how were they different?

- Abel listened to God’s instructions. God said if Cain would have done right he would have been accepted as well.
- Abel’s offering was costly. There is nothing special mentioned about Cain’s offering
 - Abel’s offering was the first of the flock
 - Abel included the costliest part of the animal, the fat.
- God showed His approval for Abel’s sacrifice. God would not accept Cain’s offering.

What characterized Cain's false worship? God was not valued – He was not given any weight. Cain did not value God's revelation and his gift showed his self-directed, selfish heart. Cain's morality flowed out of his misdirected worship. Cain was angry at God and vented that anger at Abel who chose to do right. Since the very beginning there have been conflicts over worship. Expect them still. Steel your will to offer to God the costly sacrifices He is worthy of – gifts that show you value Him.

By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh. Heb 11:4

Won't you pray with me?

*God, I want to offer my worship on your terms,
For Your pleasure.
I want to value You by listening to Your Word.
God, we long to know more about the kind of worship that honors You.
I know Lord that You are. . .*

***H**oly, holy, holy!
Though the darkness hide Thee,
Though the eye of sinful man Thy glory may not see;
Only Thou art Holy- there is none beside Thee,
Perfect in power, in love and purity*

***H**oly, holy, holy!
Lord God almighty.
All Thy works shall praise Thy name in earth and sky and sea.
Holy, holy, holy - merciful and mighty
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity.*