

May 2, 2021

Don't Be Like Cain!

by Warren Berkley

For this is the message that you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. We should not be like Cain, who was of the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own deeds were evil and his brother's righteous. Do not be surprised, brothers,[a] that the world hates you. We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brothers. Whoever does not love abides in death. Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him. By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth. – 1 John 3:11-18

Love has never been absent from God's requirements. Love God. Love your neighbor. Love your family. Love your brethren. Love the truth. This is a constant throughout the dispensations of God's revelation to man. And this passage contains what might be called "the language of obligation." John wrote that "we should love one another," and "we should not be like Cain."

Cain had an internal problem before the external action. Jealousy and anger

was nurtured in his heart and without penitent response, he acted, murdering his brother. John gives an example of what we must not do. Build into this what Jesus said about being angry with your brother (Matt. 5:21-29), and what Paul said: "Be angry and sin not," (Eph. 4:26). Much good work is done toward the authentic practice of love when we keep our hearts clean and pure.

Love is defined here in these powerful words about the Lord, who "laid down his life for us." I need to be like the Lord, not Cain, and make certain I'm engaged in love, not just in word but in deed and in truth.

Worldliness

by Warren Berkley
(See source below)

The Bible defines worldliness by centering morality where we intuitively know it should be. Worldliness is the lust of the flesh (a passion for sensual satisfaction), the lust of the eyes (an inordinate desire for the finer things of life), and the pride of life (self-satisfaction in who we are, what we have, and what we have done). Worldliness, then, is a preoccupation with ease and affluence. It elevates creature comfort to the point of idolatry; large salaries and comfortable life-styles become

Welcome!

When you visit our assemblies, you will be received friendly, kindly and courteously. We believe this to be the natural attitude of those who truly love God and mankind. Though you may at first be among strangers, we hope that you will come to know us well and count us as your friends.

We offer Bible studies as well as correspondence courses for those interested in learning more about what God expects of us.

Important Dates

Upcoming Ladies' Bible Classes - Next class May 11.

If you know of upcoming events, please inform Darrell so they can be included here.

necessities of life.

Worldliness is reading magazines about people who live hedonistic lives and spend too much money on themselves and wanting to be like them. But more importantly, worldliness is simply pride and selfishness in disguises. It's being resentful when someone snubs us or patronizes us or shows off. It means smarting under every slight, challenging every word spoken against us, cringing when another is preferred before us. Worldliness is harboring grudges, nursing grievance, and wallowing in self-pity. These are the ways in which we are most like the world.

Dave Roper, The Strength of a Man, quoted in Family Survival in the American Jungle, Steve Farrar, 1991, Multnomah Press, p. 68.

Prayer Requests

Jack Wilson continues to struggle with debilitating back pain.

Jerry Richardson is still undergoing cancer treatments.

Nancy Richardson is still dealing with breathing problems. Please pray that a more effective solution can be found and she can return to normal.

Ron Stanberry has been diagnosed with lung cancer, causing great pain. Please pray for him and Sue both.

Karen Hallmark has improved but is still struggling with her health and her eyes.

Morgan O'Hair is undergoing tests to determine the possibility of some tumors. She is also struggling with her walking as well as an immune system issue.

Dinah Williams continues to be

homebound due to mobility issues.

Bobbie Gibbons continues to be limited by balance and breathing issues. She could use encouragement.

Tyler Hairston is investigating options to treat his cancer.

Don and Alene Simmons are both suffering from pain and mobility limitations.

Dorothy Steadman is continuing to recover from her recent stroke.

Steve and Julie Ebeling are recovering from Covid.

And continue to pray for each other

If you know of someone that needs to be on this list, please tell Darrell (email preferred) and provide updates so names stay on the list as long as needed.

“praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,”

(Ephesians 6:18 ESV)

The Oaks West church of Christ is a group of individual Christians who have been added to the Lord's body through baptism (Acts 2:38, 47; Gal 3:26, 27), and have joined themselves together (Acts 2:42ff) in an effort to do the Lord's will.

We are not a part of any larger organization - we do not follow any man-made creeds and we do not answer to anyone other than the Lord.

Our standard of faith and practice is the Word of God. We believe in the God of revelation (Eph 3:1-7; 2 Tim 3:16-17) and follow his instructions in an effort to have an ongoing relationship with him (1 John 4:7-11; 5:3).

Our times of study and worship are open to all, and our members are happy to meet with interested individuals or families for study.

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