



Consumer? Genesis 4:1-15

1 Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, and said, "I have acquired a man from the Lord." 2 Then she bore again, this time his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground. 3 And in the process of time it came to pass that Cain brought an offering of the fruit of the ground to the Lord. 4 Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. And the Lord respected Abel and his offering, 5 but He did not respect Cain and his offering. And Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell. 6 So the Lord said to Cain, "Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? 7 If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it." 8 Now 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 killed him. 9 Then the Lord said to Cain, "Where is Abel your brother?" He said, "I do not know. Am I my brother's keeper?" 10 And He said, "What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood cries out to Me from the ground. 11 So now you are cursed from the earth, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. 12 When you till the ground, it shall no longer yield its strength to you. A fugitive and a vagabond you shall be on the earth." 13 And Cain said to the Lord, "My punishment is greater than I can bear! 14 Surely You have driven me out this day from the face of the ground; I shall be hidden from Your face; I shall be a fugitive and a vagabond on the earth, and it will happen that anyone who finds me will kill me." 15 And the Lord said to him, "Therefore, whoever kills Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold." And the Lord set a mark on Cain, lest anyone finding him should kill him.

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What does this story tell us about Cain?

1. Cain was a consumer.

Cain needed the harvest to survive. Abel needed his flock to survive.

We are all dependent beings that do not have the ability to meet our own needs. We must consume to live. We need air, food, and water. And everyday we consume our fair share to live.

Cain was a consumer.

2. Cain was a consumer of things that God forbids.

Cain consumed Abel by killing Abel.

Who was the first one to consume things that God forbid?

Adam and Eve

How would Cain know it was wrong to kill Abel?

Creation

Conscience

What does this tell us about the condition of mankind?

After the fall of man, other human beings became just another asset, sucker, chump that men could consume to satisfy their lusts.

After the fall, men started using people or disposing of people to satisfy their lusts.

Cain is our first example!

Cain was a consumer of things that God forbids.

3. Cain was a consumer that preyed on the weak

Cain killed his younger brother.

Who are the weak?

The weak in the bible are children, women, strangers, and the poor.

Cain was a consumer that preyed on the weak

4. Cain was a consumer that lied

Cain lied to God. When confronted he responded, I do not know where Able is.

Why did Cain Lie?

He lied because his conscience condemned him.

Cain was a consumer that lied

5. Cain was a consumer that avoided personal responsibility.

Cain said to God, am I my brother's keeper?

Why did Cain avoid personal responsibility?

Because his conscience condemned him.

Cain was a consumer that avoided personal responsibility.

6. Cain was a consumer that suffered consequences

What were the three consequences?

- His lost God's blessing on his work.
- He lost relationship with those that he loved.
He was separated from his family and the face of God.
- His lost his reputation.

Being a consumer always brings a curse, burns bridges, and limits opportunities.

Cain was a consumer that suffered consequences

7. Cain was a consumer that complained about the consequences

Cain complained to God that the consequences were too severe.

What was wrong with complaining?

Cain deserved death.

He never saw that God was being merciful to him by allowing him to live.

Cain thought he was entitled to life.

Despite what he had done, Cain never saw how wrong it was for him to kill Abel.

This is what happens in your mind and heart when sin is your master.

Cain was a consumer that complained about the consequences.

I wish that I could tell you that there was a good ending to this story. From this point forward, Cain is used in the bible as an example of character we should avoid.

Hebrews 11:4

4 By faith Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts; and through it he being dead still speaks.

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1 John 3:11-12

11 For this is the message that you heard from the beginning, that we should love one another,

12 not as Cain who was of the wicked one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his works were evil and his brother's righteous.

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Jude 11

11 Woe to them! For they have gone in the way of Cain, have run greedily in the error of Balaam for profit, and perished in the rebellion of Korah.

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I was 17 years old before God showed me that I was Cain.

- I was a consumer
- I was a consumer of things that God forbids
- I was a consumer that preyed on the weak
- I was a consumer that lied
- I was a consumer that avoided personal responsibility
- I was a consumer that suffered the consequences
- I was a consumer that complained about the consequences

Has God every showed you that you are Cain?

If He has, how do you change?

Only God can save us from being consumers like Cain.

Jesus was the only man that never used people or disposed of people to satisfy His personal desires.

Jesus allowed himself to be consumed by sin to provide a way for all men to be saved from God's judgment and be transformed.

Jesus will return to earth, slay the wicked, and judge the wicked. Only those who are in a right relationship with Him will be saved.

You need to confess to God you are Cain.

You need to confess to God you are trusting Christ to save you.

If you receive Jesus, you will receive His Spirit. Your spirit will be united with His Spirit. You become a new creation in Christ. Cain dies.

Then the Spirit will His Word and His church to help you grow in the same way that a plant needs water and soil.

If you cooperate with the Holy Spirit, you put off Cain and put on Christ.

If you do not cooperate, you will be more like Cain than like Christ.

Closing

The United States of America is in trouble

The American family is in trouble

The American church is in trouble.

Most of our citizens are consumers like Cain.

Invitation

Will you receive Jesus?

Will you cooperate with the Holy Spirit to put off Cain and put on Christ?