

James 3:13-4:12

13 Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom. ¹⁴ But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth. ¹⁵ This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. ¹⁶ For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice. ¹⁷ But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. ¹⁸ And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

James 4:1 What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? ² You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask. ³ You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions. ⁴ You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. ⁵ Or do you suppose it is to no purpose that the Scripture says, “He yearns jealously over the spirit that he has made to dwell in us”? ⁶ But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.” ⁷ Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ⁸ Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. ⁹ Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. ¹⁰ Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.

Today: February 5, 2023

Today's Order:

- Welcome & Reading; James 3:13-4:10
- One and Only
- Corporate Prayer: The Personal Touch
- Holy Spirit

Teaching of the WORD:

Foundations: Genesis 4:1-16: How the Gospel Cures us from a heart like Cain's.

Worship through Giving

- Sovereign Over Us
- There is One Gospel
- Doxology – Old 100th

Sermon Topics and Events:

February 5; Foundations Genesis 4:1-16

February 12**: Foundations Genesis 7:1-16

February 15 & 22 **Growing Together Series**; See below

February 19**: Supremacy of Jesus Hebrews 1:1-4

February 26: Supremacy of Jesus Hebrews 23:1-4

**Fellowship Dinners

Please check out <https://vineandbranch.family/> for a more detailed calendar of events and to access previous sermons.

THE WORKSHOP: Men's Bible and Character Study. This is an ongoing study that will meet the FIRST Sunday morning of every month at 7:30 a.m. Meeting location is at Robb Besosa's woodshop located at 460 Salt Creek Road. Next Meeting: March 5th 7:30am.

GROWING TOGETHER: This will be a two week mini-series, Wednesday nights 7pm; February 15 & 22. We will be encouraged to grow in our ability to serve the Church through the gifts God has entrusted to each one of us.

⁹ *And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, ¹⁰ so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, ¹¹ filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.*” Philippians 1:9-11

FOUNDATIONS 6: Genesis 4:1-16 - *Cure of a Cain Heart*

February 5, 2023

God's Design (Gen 1, 2):

Men and women together are commissioned to image God in **ordering, resting and filling**

Dominion Mandate; (1:27, 28) = **Representing, reproducing, and redeeming.**

Before the fall; God created a world to be filled; to be propagated and ordered. **The Lord's vehicle or vessel for that filling and propagating was a FAMILY!**

Men: **Leading, Tending, Protecting**

Women: **Companioning, Helping, Completing**

God's Design Distorted (Gen 3):

Through a willful choice to do life in apart from God, in God's place; God's perfect plan is **disrupted** and **distorted**. While the image of God in men and women is **distorted** and **inverted** – because of **the Grace of God** – **it is not destroyed!**

Genesis 4 Two themes developed:

1. God favor's men, women, and communities in order to bring his blessing and flourishing to others.
2. Question of God's favoring and the ways he brings blessing to people

Overview:

- Genesis 2 – The beautiful creation of man and women in Yahweh's image in both **relationship** and **role**.
- Genesis 3 – The **distortion/inversion** of the **relationship** and **roles of men and women**.
- Genesis 4 – The distortion/inversion of God's image in man is **diagnosed** so we can see it for what it is at a heart level.
 - Genesis chapter 4 is a deeper explanation of Genesis 3.
 - The interaction between Cain and the LORD is aimed at helping us understand the impact and implications sin has on the human heart and relationships
 - This story is meant to be a diagnostic tool to expose what is the root cause of our relational troubles!

1. Cain's heart is askew (4:1-4)

- God had no favor (regard) for his offering (Heb 11:4, 1 John 3:12)
- Cain believed two lies: *Is God really caring for me in the best way? Did God really say?*

2. Cain finds fault with God's Ways (4:5)

3. Cain resists God's Counsel (4:4-7)

- The Lord asks Cain 3 questions, so Cain would see and acknowledge his sin (Jonah 4:4)

4. Cain intentionally and willfully acts on his own thinking (sin) (4:8)

5. Cain hides and excuses (4:9)

6. Cain Feels sorry for himself and misses the immensity of God's Grace (4:13)

7. Cain Blames God for his Circumstances (4:14)

- Proverbs 19:3; *"When a man's folly brings his way to ruin, his heart rages against the LORD."*

Because of the grace of God, we do not have to have a heart like Cains. Our natural inclinations to live with God and become a **redemptive** force in our world; Representing, Reproducing, and Redeeming are

RESTORED in us. Men are restored to **Lead, Tend, Protect**. Women are restored to **Companion, Help, and Complete**.