

## The Progression of Sin

Genesis 4:6–16

**Context:** After Eve gives birth to Cain and Abel, both sons bring their offering to God. When God accepts Abel's offering and rejects Cain's, Cain grows jealous of his brother Abel. This envy grows into a sinful rage and the first murder is committed.

### As you study Cain's murder of Abel ...

#### A. \_\_\_\_\_ the nearness of sin (vs. 6-7)

1. Sin is named here for the first time in the Bible, it is personified as someone lying in wait for Cain. It desires to have you, but you must rule over it. A conflict of wills, just as in Genesis 3:16, where the same words and structure appear.
2. 1 Corinthians 10:13 (ESV) No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

#### B. \_\_\_\_\_ sin's destructive power (vs. 8)

1. The brevity of the report of Abel's murder underlines the coldness of Cain's action. Jealousy, probably coupled with anger at God, causes him to slay his own brother without pity. The heinousness of this spiteful murder reveals that sin has mastered Cain. (ESV Study Bible)
2. Sin escalates to one brother murdering another. This first violent act between two people anticipates the increase in violence in Cain's line (vv. 23–24) and the violence that brings the flood in judgment (6:11–13). (D.A. Carson)

#### C. \_\_\_\_\_ sin's consequences (vs. 9-16)

1. Human sin has a bearing on the fertility of the earth. Whereas God intended humanity to enjoy the earth's bounty, sin distances people not only from God himself but also from nature. (ESV Study Bible)
2. All sin leads us to our need for "Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel." (Hebrews 12:24)