

TEMPTATION 2 – WHO’S YOUR DADDY?

Introduction – Like Eve and Jesus, we must decide whether to trust God’s Word or selfish satanic suggestions to sin. We are tempted by the lust of the flesh and eye, plus our egotistical arrogance. To overcome the tests, we must not reduce sin to a simple violation of the rules, even God’s commandments. Instead sin is a personal force of evil that wants to manipulate us.

A. How the rebellion in the garden led to death by murder

Genesis 4:1-12

1. The family should be the place where we experience the greatest harmony and peace. Instead it often becomes a center of competition and contempt over sibling rivalry.
2. The classic conflict between the rancher and the farmer are highlighted here.
3. The contrast between the sacrificial gifts is “the fat portions from the firstborn of his flock” versus “some of the fruits of the soil.”
4. The firstborn child feels the pressure to become the family hero.
5. Cain becomes angry and felt intense shame over God’s rejection of his gift.
6. God personally intervenes to counsel Cain. *Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast? If you do what is right, will you not be accepted?*
7. As we use our free will to choose between good and evil, sin is like a predatory animal poised to control us.
8. We can rule over sin like the royalty we were created to be or descend into an out-of-control animistic existence.
9. Cain’s sarcastic response to God betrays his heart: *Am I my brother’s keeper?*
10. *What have you done?* the Lord asks us. Because of our rebellion we have all become restless wanderers on the earth.

B. I am not a murderer like Cain!

Matthew 5:21-26

1. We are all aware of the rule that it is illegal to murder someone. We know we can be held accountable if we are caught.

2. Jesus demonstrates that our anger against others is a potential fatal flaw.
3. The words we speak reveal our contempt and disrespect for others.
4. Like Cain and Abel we are back at the altar before God with our gift.
5. Reconciliation is more important than correct religious worship.
6. Our alienation from a family member, coworker, neighbor, or a brother or sister in Christ can cost us everything.
7. Adversary is another word for Satan's role. He tempts us to sin. If he succeeds then he takes us before the Judge for punishment.
8. We need to learn the importance of settling matters quickly before sin controls and condemns us.

Conclusion – Our choices and attitudes answer the simple question: Who's your Daddy? John 8:44