

Sermon Discussion Guide:

# Am I My Brother's Keeper?

Sunday, January 29, 2023

Scripture: **Genesis 4:9**

Series: **Q&A: The Bible's Heaviest Questions**

---

## OVERVIEW

Cain did not think he was his “brother’s keeper.” He acted out of pride, anger, and selfishness—and he killed his own brother. While this might seem like a drastic scenario, if we are not careful, we can fall into a selfish trap of only thinking of our own needs and responsibilities. When we act this way, we exalt ourselves and ignore God. Because everyone is created in God’s image, we have a God-ordained responsibility to care for others and to seek their good. Jesus commands us to love God and our neighbor. The truth for all believers is: **you are indeed your brother’s keeper.**

---

## CORROBORATING TEXTS

Genesis 4:1-16; Hebrews 11:4; Genesis 1:27; Genesis 9:6; Matthew 22:36-40; Micah 6:8; Romans 12:10; Romans 12:15-16; Galatians 6:2; Hebrews 2:17-18; John 15:12-13

---

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Cain acted out of pride and selfishness when he killed his brother. Yet before he did that, he was given a warning by God, which was an act of grace. Why do you think Cain failed to heed God’s warning? Have you failed to heed God’s warning before making a careless decision? If so, what was the outcome? How can we learn to heed God’s warnings?
2. Cain didn’t seem to recognize the spiritual danger he was in. Have there been times when you failed to recognize the spiritual danger you were in? If so, what were some of the signs? How can we learn to recognize—and guard against—drifting into spiritual danger?
3. Cain had a wrong understanding of his relationship with other people. What specifically did he get wrong? Have there been times when you had a wrong understanding of your relationship with others? If so, how? How has your understanding changed over time?
4. Regarding the truth of being our brother’s keeper, Pastor Joe listed several “one another” passages, such as Galatians 6:2. In what tangible ways can our church and your community group live this out? In what tangible ways are you seeking to live this out?
5. Pastor Joe said that we have been made for community, which is about purpose. How should this truth shape your own life and ministry? Do you sense that you are truly living with a purpose? How is God calling you to fulfill this purpose in the midst of community?
6. Jesus commands us to love our neighbor. Have there been times when you’ve been selective in doing so? If so, what were your motives? How have your understanding and motives changed over time? How can we guard against being selective in who we love?