

Am I My Brother's
Keeper?

Genesis
4:9

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- **Genesis 4**, Cain murders Abel in anger
- **4:9**, when confronted by God, he lies and says, “Am I my brother’s keeper?” seeking to absolve himself of responsibility.
- **4:10-12**, God rejected Cain and did NOT accept His “excuse”

Am I My Brother's Keeper?

- In our last 2 lessons we addressed being part of the body of Christ. Expanding on this, we are also a family. We are called brethren, members of “the household of God” (**Ephesians 2:19**)
- This concept goes all the way back to the beginning of mankind

Am I My Brother's Keeper?

- As brothers and sisters in Christ, we are to be “my brother’s keeper”.
- In this lesson we will focus on some “one another” passages that remind us of what this looks like

“One another”

- Found 87 times in NT.
In gospels and Acts (26x), mostly addressing interaction (**cf. Mark 4:41, Luke 24:32, etc.**)
- In the letters ~60x, the expression often describes how we treat and interact with each other as brothers and sisters in Him.

“Love one another”

- Found more than any other “one another” expression.
It is the “*more excellent way*”
(**1 Corinthians 12:31-13:8**)
- Jesus emphasized - **John 15:12, 17, 13:34-35**

“Love one another”

- **Romans 13:8, 1 Thessalonians 3:12, 4:9, 1 Peter 1:22, 1 John 3:11, 23, 4:7, 11-12, 2 John 5, etc.**

This love is the catalyst for the other
“one another” passages

“Greet one another”

- **Romans 16:16, 1 Corinthians 16:20, 2 Corinthians 13:12, 1 Peter 5:14** the “holy kiss”.
- A common form of greeting then
- The first sign of civility is seen in how we greet each other.
The occasion should NOT matter!

“Greet one another”

- We ought to anticipate being with one another - both in assembling and other times (**cf. Psalm 122:1**)
- We are preparing to spend eternity together (**cf. 1 John 4:20-21**)

“Greet one another”

- Some avoid “one another” rather than greeting each other.
Some choose to not participate in activities because they don’t like it.
- While we may not be able to participate in everything, shouldn’t being with “one another” be cause enough to CHOOSE to be there?

“Be kind to one another”

- Also, this is basic courtesy!
- **1 Corinthians 13:4**
- **Romans 12:10**
 - Affectionate - familial and genuine love
 - “preferring one another” - be preeminent in loving. *“Outdo one another”* (ESV)
- **Ephesians 4:32**

“Bearing with one another”

- **Colossians 3:13 (Ephesians 4:2)**
- Will we “put up” with differences and idiosyncrasies?
People are different!
- Will we embrace their differences?

“Bearing with one another”

- Will we give the benefit of the doubt?
1 Corinthians 13:7,
James 3:17 - willing to yield?
- **Romans 14:13** - Consider “liberties”
cf. Matthew 7:1-5 - get all the facts
before making a judgment

“Forgiving one another”

- Often tied to bearing with one another

Colossians 3:13

- **Ephesians 4:32** - even as Christ forgave you (**cf. Matthew 6:14-15**)
This has a bearing on our salvation

“Exhorting one another”

- True caring often involves dealing with the unpleasant. This is when our love is tested
- **Romans 15:14** – admonish
Hebrews 3:13, 10:24-25 - more than assembling is emphasized!
- **Galatians 6:1-2, James 5:19-20** - seek to rescue the erring brother

“Comforting & edifying one another”

- Just be there when you are needed. Strive to build each other up spiritually.
- **1 Thessalonians 4:18, 5:11**
2 Corinthians 1:3-4
Proverbs 17:17, *A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.*

“Good works toward one another”

- **Galatians 5:13** through love we serve one another (**cf. 6:10**)
- **James 2:14ff, 1 John 3:17-18** we show genuine love by our actions **cf. Matthew 25:31-46**

“Submitting to one another”

- We cannot think only of ourselves.
We **MUST** think of each other!

Philippians 2:3-4

- **Ephesians 5:21, 1 Peter 5:5**

“Confess to and pray for one another”

- **James 5:16**
- Confessing our failures, especially when others are involved, is needed at times **cf. Matthew 5:23-24**

“Confess to one another”

- If we are as close as God intends, we ought to be able to open up to each other **WITHOUT** being harshly judged.
- Many are fearful to admit sins because of how they believe they will be treated. Are they right? **cf. 2 Corinthians 2:6-8**

“Pray for one another”

- **James 5:16**
- Not only what is confessed, but generally.
- **Ephesians 6:18**, *praying always... with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints.*

Concluding thoughts

- Truly we are our brother's keeper!
- Cain declared, “Am I my brother's keeper?” to absolve himself of guilt and responsibility.
- **HOW will we answer that question?**

Let us pray!