

# Questions God Asks: Where is your brother?

*(Genesis 4:1-9)*



## A Lenten Series on The Questions God Asks His people

Then the LORD said to Cain, "Where is Abel your brother?"  
He said, "I do not know; am I my brother's keeper?"

*(Genesis 4:9)*

## + Call to Worship +

A new commandment I give you: Love one another.  
**As I have loved you, so you also must love one another.** John 13:34

Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers  
dwell in unity! Psalm 133:1

**Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against any  
of your people, but love your neighbor as yourself.** Leviticus 19:18

Be devoted to one another in brotherly love.  
**Outdo yourselves in honoring one another.** Romans 12:10

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or empty pride,  
**but in humility consider others more important than  
yourselves.** Philippians 2:3

exhort one another daily, as long as it is called today,  
**so that none of you may be hardened by sin's  
deceitfulness.** Hebrew 3:13

Let brotherly love continue. Hebrew 13:1

**Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers  
dwell in unity!** Psalm 133:1

To him who is able to keep you from stumbling,  
**-to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty,  
power and authority, Amen.** Jude 1:24-25

## + Confession and Forgiveness +

**P** Heavenly Father, as we come before your presence tonight, we  
confess that we have daily sinned against you in thought, word, and  
deed. We have not lived in unity with our brothers and sisters. We  
have not cared for our each other as we ought. And we have  
forsaken our responsibilities to love, provide, and support the body  
of believers. Come to us with grace and mercy. And forgive us for  
Jesus' sake.

**C** Merciful Father, you have sent your Son into the world to be our  
brother, savior, and redeemer. We praise you that you have not  
abandoned us. But rather have given us the promise that never will  
you leave us, never will you forsake us. We thank you for calling us  
into your church where you daily and richly forgive us our sins. Give us  
confidence and strength in knowing that we are your people,  
cherished, loved, and forgiven through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

## + Hymn 766 vv.1-4 +

*Our Father, Who from Heaven Above*

## + Scripture Readings +

### Old Testament Reading:

*Genesis 4:1–9*

<sup>1</sup>Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, saying, “I have gotten a man with the help of the LORD.” <sup>2</sup>And again, she bore his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, and Cain a worker of the ground. <sup>3</sup>In the course of time Cain brought to the LORD an offering of the fruit of the ground, <sup>4</sup>and Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat portions. And the LORD had regard for Abel and his offering, <sup>5</sup>but for Cain and his offering he had no regard. So Cain was very angry, and his face fell. <sup>6</sup>The LORD said to Cain, “Why are you angry, and why has your face fallen? <sup>7</sup>If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is for you, but you must rule over it.”

<sup>8</sup>Cain spoke to Abel his brother. And when they were in the field, Cain rose up against his brother Abel and killed him. <sup>9</sup>Then the LORD said to Cain, “Where is Abel your brother?” He said, “I do not know; am I my brother’s keeper?”

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

### Epistle Reading:

*Romans 12:9–21*

<sup>9</sup>Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. <sup>10</sup>Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. <sup>11</sup>Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. <sup>12</sup>Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. <sup>13</sup>Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.

<sup>14</sup>Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. <sup>15</sup>Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. <sup>16</sup>Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be conceited. <sup>17</sup>Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. <sup>18</sup>If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. <sup>19</sup>Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.” <sup>20</sup>To the contrary, “if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head.” <sup>21</sup>Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Gospel Reading:

*John 1:35–45*

<sup>35</sup>The next day again John was standing with two of his disciples, <sup>36</sup>and he looked at Jesus as he walked by and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God!” <sup>37</sup>The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. <sup>38</sup>Jesus turned and saw them following and said to them, “What are you seeking?” And they said to him, “Rabbi” (which means Teacher), “where are you staying?” <sup>39</sup>He said to them, “Come and you will see.” So they came and saw where he was staying, and they stayed with him that day, for it was about the tenth hour. <sup>40</sup>One of the two who heard John speak and followed Jesus was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. <sup>41</sup>He first found his own brother Simon and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which means Christ). <sup>42</sup>He brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, “So you are Simon the son of John? You shall be called Cephas” (which means Peter). <sup>43</sup>The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, “Follow me.” <sup>44</sup>Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. <sup>45</sup>Philip found Nathanael and said to him, “We have found him of whom Moses in the Law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.”

**P** This is the Gospel of our Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

### **+ Hymn 845 vv.1-5 +**

*Where Charity and Love Prevail*

### **+ Sermon +**

*Title: Where is Your Brother?*

*Text: Genesis 4:1–9*

### **+ Hymn 438 +**

*A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth*

### **+ Prayers +**

### **+ Lord’s Prayer +**

### **+ Benediction +**

### **+ Hymn 570 vv. 1-5 +**

*Just as I Am, without One Plea*