

OUR LONG WAR AGAINST GOD'S IMAGE

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Key idea:

In our rebellion against God, humanity has consistently demeaned, degraded, and attempted to destroy other humans because they are created in God's image.

Key text:

Genesis 4:8-10

Now Cain said to his brother Abel, "Let's go out to the field." And while they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother Abel and killed him. ⁹ Then the Lord said to Cain, "Where is your brother Abel?" "I don't know," he replied. "Am I my brother's keeper?" ¹⁰ The Lord said, "What have you done? Listen! Your brother's blood cries out to me from the ground."

Key points:

1. Cain's war was not ultimately with Abel but with the image of God, which he sought to destroy.
2. In the early chapters of Genesis and throughout the rest of the Old Testament we see the impulse of sin to strike out against God intensifying and spreading so that humans often act in violence and hatred against others.
3. This impulse of war against the image of God ultimately leads to humans killing Christ.
4. American history is full of the war against God's image through racism and abortion.
5. Sadly, the Church can even be complicit in these sins, so all of us need to ask the Spirit to search us to eradicate any residue of these sins.

Questions for discussion/application:

1. What part of Sunday's teaching stood out most to you? Why?

2. How is the story of Cain and Abel related to the prophecy regarding the seed of the woman and the seed of the serpent in Genesis 3:15?
3. The root of Cain's sin against Abel was his deeper conflict with God. How much of our sin is actually against God? Can I sin against other humans without sinning against God? Why or why not?
4. Why are racism and prejudice such a temptation for humans? Why does sin so often produce violent prejudice and actions against those who are different than us in some way?
5. How does the quest for absolute human autonomy underlie abortion? Why do some seem so intent on promoting abortion at all costs?
6. How does the story of the Egyptian Pharaoh demanding all Hebrew infants be killed at birth link both the sin of racism and the sin of abortion? Are these two sins linked in any way in the current practice of abortion?
7. What specific steps is the Holy Spirit prompting me to take to be authentically pro-life?
8. Who will I call or see to encourage this week? Who can I encourage to worship this King this coming Sunday?

For Further Study:

[The Sanctity of Human Life](#) (January 22, 2017)

[When Does Human Life Begin](#) (January 23, 2012)

[Racism, the Image of God, and the Gospel](#) (June 14, 2020)

Preview of next week: Authentic Obedient Love (2 John 1-6)