

Proper Worship

"In the course of time, Cain brought an offering to the LORD from the fruit of the soil; and Abel, for his part, brought the choicest of the firstlings of his flock. The LORD paid heed to Abel and his offering, but to Cain and his offering He paid no heed. Cain was much distressed and his face fell. And the LORD said to Cain, 'Why are you distressed, And why is your face fallen? Surely, if you do right, There is uplift. But if you do not do right Sin couches at the door; Its urge is toward you, Yet you can be its master.'" Genesis 4:3-7

This passage records man's first act of worship. Cain knew what God expected, but refused to comply, and in an expression of rebellion killed his brother Abel. Adam and Eve expressed their desire for autonomy, bringing about the fall of the human race. They reproduced after their kind in that their son expressed a desire to relate to God on his terms as well.

Paul, writing to the Romans said, "I appeal to you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship."¹ Presenting our bodies as a living sacrifice is the least common denominator in our worship of God. Most Christians emulate Cain in insisting on worshipping God on their own terms. They sing His praises, gather in elaborate expressions of worship, practice various forms of mysticism – anything but sacrificing their desires and ambitions as His slaves. As with Cain, God will have none of it!

¹ Romans 12:1