

sin. James, the brother of the Lord, describes the motions of sin in chapter one, verse fourteen of his epistle, "...each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full grown, gives birth to death."

The words "his own evil desire" are of primary importance here. These words reveal the fact that the source of sin is within man. (cf. Mark 7:20-23) It was not the environment or heredity which drove Cain toward an unavoidable act. The image of God within Cain had been so twisted by sin that he served only his own desires and not God.

The reference to desire needs a closer look. Thomas Manton once wrote, "The soul of man is chiefly and mainly made up of desires". . .and, "the bent of the soul, the most vigorous, commanding, swaying faculty of the soul is desire..."¹⁵ Because of sin, man sets his sights on objectives that are contrary to God's will. He wants what God says he should not have and he wants such things only for himself. So both the objective and the motivation for achieving it are inappropriate.

Cain was the first baby born into this world. Eve was gratified with her accomplishment and perhaps thought the new baby represented the answer to God's promise (Gen. 3:15). Cain was given all

¹⁵Thomas Manton, An Exposition of the Epistle of James, (Grand Rapids, Mich.: Associated Publishers and Authors, Inc., no date), p. 93.