

# FROM CAIN AND ABEL TO KIM K. AND KANYE

Dr. W. Edward Jenkins – January 2017

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**The Bible:** Gen 4:8 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.

**The Internet:** Kim says, "Kanye is pitiful, filed for divorce months ago."

Since the beginning of time, families have had problems. I often wonder why family life is so complicated. Followers of Christ often look to the bible as the guide to a successful family life. Popular biblical commentary suggests that obedience and training is the divine nutrient for a healthy prosperous family life. "Children obey your parents, parents love your children, children honor your parents and you will live a long time, husbands love your wives, and wives obey your husbands. If you do these things your lives will be trouble free," some preachers and teachers suggest.

Some believe that a family's success is based on what someone did right and a family's failure is based on what somebody did wrong. If life were that cut and dry than "good," parents, have a guarantee that their children will be upright and successful. Yet, in reality, we see children from alcoholic and abusive households rise above their history of origin and offspring from sober and kind parentage produce some social misfits. This is not to say that deviant family social dynamics does not leave socio-psychological battle scars that affect personality and world views, it probably does, but it need not be an emotional death sentence, so to speak. Family is a delicate and resilient institution. Family can be destroyed in a moment's notice but it can also weather the storms of life by the power of God. . The book of Proverbs is known for several sayings about family life. Google [A List of Scriptures to Teach Children](#) and several passages from Proverbs will appear. Proverbs is a composition of writings known as Wisdom Literature. It should be noted however, that Proverbs are not promises. With that said we believe that Proverbs is God inspired writings that are good for life. To live by the Proverbs is not an iron clad contract with God that our lives will be trouble free.

Historically, the church has viewed family problems as a husband and wife dilemma. As a result, the parent/child crisis is often neglected. That is very interesting because there is a natural progression of stages that a child experiences from childhood to adulthood that can place the child and parent at odds. The parent who has been the child's protector, promoter, provider and prophet (4-P's), feels the (3-D's) disappointed, dismounted and desponded when the child says mom and dad I have reached the age that I would like to have a voice in my life choices. I do not need most of the 4-P's from you anymore. However, I might need some pesos.

Some parents have a difficult time with the transitional stage of a young person's life, they are accustomed to a toddler like obedience and are now confronted with the quest for adult-like independence. I was watching the Godfather movie recently, and Michael Corleone wanted his

son to go to law school but the son's passion was opera. A terrible confrontation followed, anger erupted and the Godfather wanted to dis-associate his son from the family. I wanted to reach through the television and tell Michael Corleone if you do not let your son follow his passion, your relationship will be compromised if not destroyed. The suggestion is not to avoid wise counsel to our children, but we must also be willing to listen to our children and understand that their aspirations may not coincide with our dreams. Older folk describe it this way, "When them chil'ren start to smell themselves, you got a problem on your hands."

The institution of family is under satanic threat every day. Husband and wives, children and parents, sibling's rivalry, in-laws and outlaws are often in a crisis to crisis mode. Satan is, was and will be busy until the end of time. Job 1: *One day the angels came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came with them. 7 The Lord said to Satan, "Where have you come from?" Satan answered the Lord, "From roaming through the earth and going back and forth in it."* Satan must own Uber, his business card says, "Have Car will Travel."

The bible says that Job was a devout man; therefore, I must conclude that even in your best efforts, as the songwriter said, "There will be trouble in your way, got to cry sometime." John 14:1 *"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me.* Although the passage ascribes the words to Jesus in preparing his followers of his impending death and future comfort, the principle of trusting God, *Pisteu*, is to have faith (in, upon, or with respect to, a person or thing), i.e. credit; by implication, to entrust (especially one's spiritual well-being to Christ): ([BibleSoft's New Exhaustive Strong's Numbers and Concordance.](#))

Strong character and the Holy Spirit empowered effort to be Christ-like in our discipleship is a biblical mandate and will benefit one's life. But there is no guarantee that we will not have dark days. No matter how hard you try your wife may decide to leave you, my suggestion is to trust God, no matter how hard you try to treat people right, someone may hurt you, my suggestion is to trust God, your friend who you have shared personal details about your life, decides to post your affairs on Facebook, my suggestion is to trust God, your child who honored you with love and respect, dies suddenly or suffers a debilitating illness, my suggestion is to trust God, your mother or father who are your heroes and sheroes have become your biggest critic, my suggestion to you is trust God, the fellow who loved you when you were unexpected now drops you when become expecting, my suggestion is to trust God, the job you wanted you did not get, my suggestion is to trust God, you just got laid off and the bills are due, my suggestion is to trust God, the college you applied to did not accept you, my suggestion is to trust God, you prayed to God and he did not answer your supplication, my suggestion, is to trust God . Prove 3:5 *Trusts in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; 6 in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.*

I am encouraged by the songwriter, *"I trust in God, I know he cares for me, upon the land or on the storm-tossed sea. Though billows roll, he keeps my soul, my heavenly father watches over me.*



Dr. W. Edward Jenkins received his B.A. in Sociology from the University of California, Riverside. He holds a Masters of Theology & Biblical Studies and a Doctorate degree of Ministry from Fuller Theology Seminary in Pasadena, CA. A longstanding educator, Dr. Jenkins taught Government/Law for the Riverside Unified School District and received his Lifetime Secondary Teaching Credential. Dr. Jenkins was the Coordinator of the Drug & Alcohol Intervention Program, as well as the Work Experience Program for the Riverside School District. Dr. Jenkins has also taught Biblical Greek at the California State Convention. In the late 80s, Dr. Jenkins pastored the Bibleway Baptist Church of Woodcrest, CA. He is currently the Pastor of Victory Baptist Church of Los Angeles, a position that he has held for 20 years. Dr. Jenkins is a board member of the National Baptist Convention, Inc. and a faculty member of the National Congress of Christian Education. In addition to his work in the National Baptist Convention, Inc., he has held the positions of Vice-Moderator and Dean of the Ministers' Conference in the Los Angeles District Association of the Western Baptist State Convention and he is presently the Moderator of the LADA. Dr. Jenkins is married to Kimberley and they have one son, Jahi. Dr. Jenkins may be contacted by email at: [pastorvbc@att.net](mailto:pastorvbc@att.net).