

**AVOIDING AN UNFAVORABLE SACRIFICE**  
**Genesis 4:1-7**

Have you ever wondered why God accepted Abel's offering and not Cain's? They both believed in God. They both brought a sacrifice. So why did He accept one and reject the other?

**Two Truths To Consider:**

**1. God Doesn't Accept Just Any \_\_\_\_\_**

- Verses 4b-5a, "...The Lord looked with favor on Abel and his offering, but on Cain and his offering he did not look with favor..."
- We want to think that when it comes to our offering that "it's the thought that counts," but this just isn't true.
- Proverbs 15:8, "The Lord detests the sacrifice of the wicked, but the prayer of the upright pleases him."
- Isaiah 1:11-13a, "The multitude of your sacrifices - what are they to me?" says the Lord, "I have more than enough of burnt offerings... stop bringing meaningless offerings! Your incense is detestable to me..."
- Psalm 51:16-17; Micah 6:6-8

**2. A Favorable Offering Requires \_\_\_\_\_**

- Three differences between the two men and their offerings:
  1. Difference in the character  
(1 John 3:12; Matthew 23:35)
  2. Difference in the quality of the "sacrifice"  
(Hebrews 11:4; Exodus 23:19; Proverbs 3:9; Luke 21:1-4)
  3. Difference in the motive - faithful obedience vs. obligation  
(1 Samuel 15:22)
- Verse 6-7a, "Why are you so angry? And why is your face downcast? If you do what is right, will you not be accepted?"
- The highest form of worship and giving is obedience with a right spirit.
- Matthew 7:21-23, "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father..."

**WHAT TYPE OF SACRIFICE  
WILL YOU CHOOSE TO BRING?**

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