

## Saving Sarah Cain

*If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from His love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus. Philippians 2:4 NIV*

*Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. 1 John 4:7-8*

Sarah Cain lived for herself. She said, "Being a writer is everything I am. If I lose that, who am I?" Sarah's goal was to gain a wide syndication network for her column. She wanted to succeed in life. Even though she was a good writer, she was in a slump.

What are some of the things that define who you are?

Sarah needed a place to belong. Another writer seemed to be moving into her spot at the paper. When her sister died, Sarah went to the funeral. She had been estranged from her sister because Ivy chose a different lifestyle and Sarah had difficulty accepting that decision.

Has someone close to you made a lifestyle decision, good or bad, that you find hard to accept?

Lyddie, Ivy's oldest daughter, devoted herself to serving her brothers and sisters. She also taught them to serve each other and stay true to the values of their parents instead of seeking glory and attention for themselves. The choices we make in life can be loving and compassionate or they can be selfish and self-serving. The Bible tells us to make choices that honor God and serve each other.

What are some of the ways that you serve others? What some ways you honor God?

Sarah was intrigued by the children's lifestyle and wrote about it in her column. She was so intent on succeeding in her own life that she disregarded the damage that she was doing to theirs. Her own success was more important to her. She didn't even see how she was impacting their lives.

Examine your own actions. Are you building relationships of love with your family or serving yourself?

Sarah's boyfriend was disappointed in her because she chose to write about the children without their knowledge. Even though he disagreed with her, he still loved her. Sometimes it is hard to speak up for what is right to someone we love. All of us need correction. The people who love us the most are the ones who will help us see the truth and find our way. He loved her even more when she was willing to change.

Has someone corrected you lately or you them? Are you willing to accept correction when you need it?

When Sarah's sister Ivy married an Amish man, Ivy found the family she needed and a place to belong. Sarah felt betrayed by Ivy and rejected both her sister and their shared faith. When Ivy died, Sarah inherited the responsibility of Ivy's children but soon learned that loving them was much more than caring for their physical needs. Sarah had spent her adult life thinking only of herself. Sarah had to learn how to love the children. When she was willing to do it she also found a place to belong.

*Dear Lord we thank You that we will always have a place where we belong because You have chosen us for Your very own. Take away our fears and resentments, and our need to prove ourselves to the world. Fill us with Your contentment and peace. Use us to do wonderful things in our lives to Your glory and our good. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.*