

WHAT IS INIQUITY & HOW IT CAN HINDER YOU

II Samuel 13-15

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Unattended issues will cause iniquity to develop. Iniquity literally means “unrighteousness”. Iniquity is sin that is hidden deep within the heart of the bearer. It has become so much a part of the individual’s life that it is not considered a threat of any sort. Even though iniquity is defined as “shameful; injustice; wickedness; the contempt of the divine law”, the person is not aware of the violations they are committing because the actions of iniquity are so subtle. The Preacher, King Solomon, warned us in **Proverbs 4:23** to “**Keep your heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life**”. Iniquity, like a cancer, will grow undetected and will not draw a lot of attention to itself. It will dress up with the “Word of God” to justify its reason to continue to stay in your heart. Also, like cancer, it will suddenly come out of hiding and visually presents its work of destruction. Developed iniquity will cause you to commit visible sin. You are then in a condition of not being right, either with God, according to the standards of His holiness and righteousness, or with man according to the standards of what man knows to be right by his conscience.

Our text resumes after King David takes Uriah’s wife, Bathsheba to be his wife. As our pastor has been informing us in our series on First Samuel, David had an issue with sexual lust and would not deal with it. This iniquity was hidden by the justification that he was the king and could have as many women as he desired. However, his iniquity (lust) with Bathsheba showed forth as the judgment of the sword continually having residence in his household (2 Samuel 12:9-12). Absalom was one of King David’s many sons and his favorite. Unfortunately, David failed to express this to him so Absalom grew up not knowing where he stood with his father; that his father dearly loved him. Absalom was more attractive than any of his brothers. Not only was he very attractive, he was also a charmer and was able to steal the hearts of people. Absalom was a child that needed the attention of his father. His father was absent during his childhood years, and this caused resentment to take residence in his heart. He felt wronged and was hurt by it. This is another sign of iniquity. It represents a wrong; injury or misdeed. This fertile soil nurtures this common thing of a man’s heart that God calls “iniquity”.

Iniquity produces wickedness as well as evil, worthless actions. It will cause you to become comfortable with the act of transgression. Transgression stems from “lawlessness”. You willingly go contrary to the Law of God. Wickedness makes you easily inclined to mischief (causing or likely to cause harm or trouble).

Back to our text, compounding life issues finally made the presence of “iniquity” visible. A tragedy occurred within the family that needed a father’s attention and judgment. When this was not given, Absalom began to entertain thoughts that were nurtured in the fertile soil of iniquity. He did not mention that he was angry or hurt. He didn’t even appear a bit disturbed toward the offender. But after two years of sowing foul thoughts, “iniquity” came forth and committed murder. That is when it was clearly visible that Absalom was furious and was harboring malice and wickedness toward his brother. Murder began in his heart before it was actually committed. **I John 3:15** states, “**Whosoever hates his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him**”. Iniquity starts as a hidden wicked desire toward someone. God cannot bless you in that state of mind.

Now that we know what iniquity is and how it works, let’s see how it can hinder us from receiving what God has for us. **Psalms 66:18** — “**If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord**

will not hear me": "Regard" means to "notice carefully, to view in the light of, and to relate to". **Genesis 4:6-7** reads, "**And the Lord said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? And why is thy countenance fallen? If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? And if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him**". Here Cain could feel within himself that the favor of God was not on his life, and yet it was visible that his brother Abel had God's favor. With things as they were, God, being such a loving, long-suffering God, tried to give Cain an opportunity to deal with the iniquity called "jealousy" in his heart. Cain chose not to deal with it. He went on as if nothing was wrong and, once again, iniquity brought forth murder.

Iniquity will cause a breach between God and us. **Isaiah 59:1-2** states that "**Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that He will not hear**". As stated before, iniquity will expose itself. The next two verses say, "**For your hands are defiled with blood, and your fingers with iniquity; your lips have spoken lies, your tongue hath muttered perverseness. None called for justice, nor any pleaded for truth: they trust in vanity, and speak lies; they conceive mischief, and bring forth iniquity**". Wickedness springs forth from iniquity. You are easily given over to mischief. Your heart no longer contains the nature of God and love for your fellow man. You lose the desire to make spiritual progress in God and become content with the life of yesteryear (old testimonies and things you used to do). The problem with becoming content with that period is that God is steadily moving forward. He has a strategic plan and schedule that requires Him to stay on course. His plan is to include you, but if you are not fit to be used it forces Him to continue without you. You will find yourself becoming frustrated with your life and envious at the lives of others that are filled with the Spirit of God and have His favor moving in their lives. Thus, as the Preacher would say, "...**This also is vanity and vexation of spirit**".

Iniquity produces works of the flesh. **Romans 8:5-8** lets us know, "**For they that are in the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God**". Iniquity will cause us to fall out of favor with God because operating in the "flesh" produces fruits of corruption. The "fruit of the Spirit" brings forth life eternal. This will hinder us from receiving all God has for us.

How do we deal with our iniquities?

- We must acknowledge that we are aware of them. No longer will we cover them up or dress them up. We must face them and deal with them. The initial step is to repent. I John 1:5-10
- We must not waste time wrestling with our past failures. Romans 8:1
- We must believe that God is faithful in His promise ... if we repent. 2 Chronicles 7:14
- We must declare our position in God. 3 John 2
- We must stay focused so that we will not end up in that situation again. I Peter 5:8
- We must love God with all our hearts. For it is our level of love for God that will determine our commitment to God. John 14:15

Remember, Jesus said in Matthew 5:8, "Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God".