

The word in the original New Testament Greek translated *iniquity* is **ANOMIA**. But, what does it mean? Well, **NOMOS** is the word for **Law**; and, if **A** is put in front of the root word, it means **not** or **no**. So, the word translated *iniquity*, **ANOMIA**, means **no law** or **lawlessness**. But, used in its usual sense, the word refers to lawlessness in this way:

Before someone steals something, he had to steal it already in his heart. In order to do that, he had to divert his conscience by rationalizing the theft, by trying to justify it. What it boils down to is this: he had to violate and sear his conscience in order to do the dastardly deed. This is what he did inside to himself, against conscience, heart, and soul and against the God of his conscience, and that's what's called **ANOMIA**, **iniquity**.

**Iniquity** is what stabs and stains the soul. Now, even if somebody else grabbed what the guy intended to steal and made off with it before he could get his mitts on it, he's still a thief in God's eyes. For, God looks on the heart. So, even though he came up empty-handed, he bears his iniquity before God.

You're not to regard your neighbor as something for you to exploit, to use or take advantage of. You're not to covet what another person has or even to look at that person with a lustful or covetous eye? Mere mutual exploitation for self gratification's sake is not love. What's iniquity? Jesus makes the point: "Whoever looks on a woman to lust after her has already committed adultery with her in his heart."

Unless all the stains of iniquity and the natural heart that fosters and takes pleasure in iniquity are removed from you, you'll never enter into heavens glory. The Lord has the right to give you a new heart. (That's the new birth. It comes with a new will and the new seat of desires.) It's what you need. Only the Lord Jesus can wash away the stains of your iniquity with his blood and heal your soul. "Ask and you shall receive." But who actually asks? Only those who see themselves as desperate, "poor in spirit", helpless beggars! Jesus affirms that they're the ones who will end up in heaven's glory (Mat. 5). They're the chosen.

The Lord Jesus says, "If you love me, keep my commandments." But, what if iniquity became the norm so that evil was subtly labeled good? Does it say, 'Thou shalt not steal unless the government does so or says it's all right'? No! "Thou shalt not follow a multitude to do evil." Society does not determine right and wrong. "Nevertheless, the foundation of God stands sure, having this seal, The Lord knows them that are His, and let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from **iniquity**" (I Tim. 2:19).

Thank you very much. This is Edward Crawford for "For the Chosen".