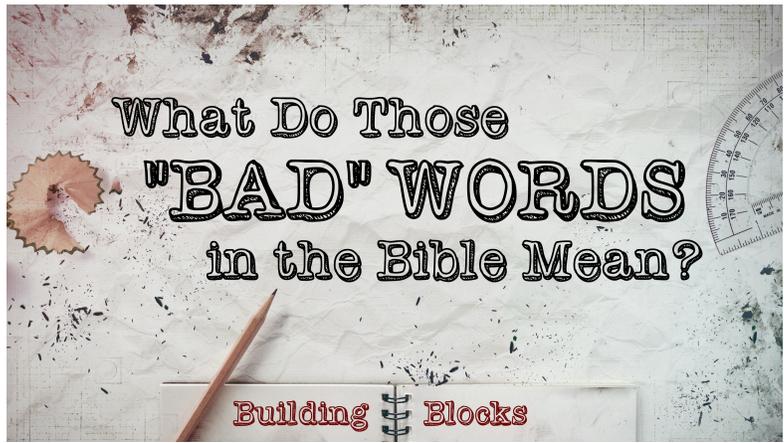


3 • Iniquity

“Iniquity is...” How would you finish that sentence? We hear that word here and there, but what does it mean? Most importantly, what does God mean when he talks about “iniquity”?

Just like the word “sin” and “transgression,” this word doesn’t have to be describing something moral or religious.



INIQUITY literally means to “_____” or “make _____.”

And so, at one of Israel’s darkest moments, we hear Jeremiah lamenting, “he has blocked my ways with blocks of stones; he has made my _____ crooked” (Lam 3:9). Or...

A voice on the bare heights is heard,
the weeping and pleading of Israel’s sons
because they have _____ their way;
they have forgotten the LORD their God. (Jer 3:21)



Or...

“I sinned and perverted what _____ right...” (Job 33:27)

The seriousness of this “perversion” can be clearly seen in **Isaiah 59**:

Their feet run to evil,
and they are swift to shed innocent blood;
their thoughts are thoughts of _____;
desolation and destruction are in their highways.
The way of peace they do not know,
and there is no justice in their paths;
they have made their roads _____;
no one who treads on them knows peace. (Isa 59:7-8)

In fact, right here in this chapter, all three of the “bad” words we’ve studied this month are used to describe how serious it is (Isa 59:12) to be separated from God (Isa 59:1-2).

And yet, in many ways, the story of the Bible can be summarized with **Psalm 32:1-2**:
“Blessed is the one whose **transgression** is _____, whose **sin** is _____.
Blessed is the man against whom the LORD counts _____ **iniquity**.” The good news of Jesus Christ is that “the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people.” The problem of “iniquity” is translated “**lawlessness**” in **Titus 2:14**, and it is our most serious problem of all. But this is why our Savior Jesus Christ “gave himself”—to “redeem us from all lawlessness and to _____ for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works” (**Titus 2:11-14**). Only Jesus can repair what we’ve bent by our iniquities.

