



We live in a strange era. Never before have there been so many speeches about rights, justice, equality, and progress... and yet it has never been so easy to see how evil presents itself as something normal, even admirable.

Moral corruption is justified.
Lies become strategy.
Sin disguises itself as freedom.

The Bible has a very precise word to describe this deep spiritual phenomenon: **iniquity**.

But what does it really mean? Is it the same as sin? Why does it appear constantly in Sacred Scripture? And why, now more than ever, do we need to understand it?

This article is a guide to understanding **what iniquity is, how it operates in the world, and how to combat it in the daily life of a Christian.**

1. What Is Iniquity? Much More Than “Doing Something Wrong”

In common language, **sin** and **iniquity** are often used as synonyms, but in biblical theology they have different nuances.

In Scripture, the Hebrew word “**avon**” and the Greek “**anomia**” indicate something deeper than a simple fault.

Iniquity is the interior evil that deforms the conscience until sin appears normal or acceptable.

We could express it this way:

- **Sin:** the concrete evil act.
- **Iniquity:** the inner disposition that makes evil appear normal or acceptable.

Iniquity **is not only committing an error**, but **perverting the sense of good and evil**.

It is the moment when a person stops saying:



| *“This is wrong, but I do it.”*

and begins to say:

| *“This is not wrong... the problem is the one who criticizes it.”*

That is where iniquity appears.

2. Iniquity in the Bible: A Wound That Runs Through Human History

From the very first pages of the Bible, iniquity appears as **a force that spreads and accumulates**.

In the Old Testament, the expression **“bearing iniquity”** or **“filling up the measure of iniquity”** is repeated constantly.

This reveals something important:
iniquity **is not only individual, it can also be collective**.

When a society begins to call good what God calls evil, iniquity **becomes institutionalized**.

The Book of Genesis describes the situation before the Flood in this way:

| *“The Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth,
and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil
continually.”*
(Genesis 6:5)



This is not merely about bad actions.

The heart itself had become deformed.

3. The Mystery of Iniquity Spoken of by Saint Paul

The New Testament goes even deeper into this phenomenon.

Saint Paul uses a striking expression:

“*For the mystery of iniquity is already at work.*”
(2 Thessalonians 2:7)

Why does he call it a **mystery**?

Because iniquity has something deeply perplexing about it:

- It infiltrates slowly.
- It disguises itself as good.
- It seduces even seemingly good people.

It does not appear suddenly.

It grows silently within culture, within social structures, and within the human heart.

History shows that whenever iniquity becomes normalized, devastating consequences follow:

- persecutions
- injustices
- moral decadence
- institutionalized violence



4. Iniquity Begins in the Heart

Before manifesting itself in laws, ideologies, or social structures, iniquity **begins inside the human person**.

Jesus Christ explained this clearly:

“For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies.”
(Matthew 15:19)

Sin does not originate in circumstances.

It begins when the heart stops seeking the truth.

First comes a small justification:

- “It’s not that serious.”
- “Everyone does it.”
- “God will understand.”

Then the soul becomes accustomed to it.

And finally evil becomes **a way of thinking**.

At that point, iniquity has already taken root.



5. The Normalization of Evil: The Clearest Sign of Iniquity

Iniquity has a very clear symptom:
when evil stops scandalizing people.

The prophet Isaiah denounced this more than 2,700 years ago:

“Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil.”
(Isaiah 5:20)

That verse seems written for our time.

Today we see:

- lies turned into political strategy
- corruption presented as cleverness
- sin defended as a right
- faith ridiculed as backwardness

Iniquity does not merely tolerate evil.

It celebrates it.

6. Christ Came to Destroy Iniquity

The Gospel does not ignore this problem.
In fact, **Christ’s mission is directly related to the liberation from iniquity.**

In Isaiah’s prophecy about the Messiah we read:



“The Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.”
(Isaiah 53:6)

Jesus does not merely forgive sins.

He uproots the very root of evil in the human heart.

This is why Christianity is not merely a moral system.
It is **an interior transformation.**

Christ did not come simply to improve outward behavior.

He came to **regenerate the heart.**

7. The Three Ways Iniquity Operates Today

Although the word may sound ancient, iniquity is very present in the modern world.

We can see it acting in three ways.

1. Personal Iniquity

When we justify our own faults and stop examining ourselves.

The danger is not falling.

The danger is **stopping recognizing the fall.**

2. Cultural Iniquity

When a society promotes values contrary to the Gospel.

This happens when:



- life loses its value
- truth becomes relative
- faith is pushed out of the public sphere

Culture begins to shape consciences.

3. Structural Iniquity

This is the most dangerous level.

It occurs when **laws and social structures legitimize evil**.

At that point sin is no longer merely tolerated.

It is imposed.

8. How to Combat Iniquity in Christian Life

The battle against iniquity does not begin in parliaments or on social media.

It begins **in the soul of each Christian**.

Here are five fundamental spiritual weapons.

1. Recover the Examination of Conscience

Iniquity thrives when we stop looking at our own hearts.

The daily examination of conscience is a spiritual medicine.

It forces us to ask ourselves:



- Have I been faithful to the truth?
 - Have I justified something I know is wrong?
 - Have I remained silent when I should have defended the good?
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2. Go to Confession Frequently

The sacrament of confession **breaks the cycle of self-justification.**

When the soul acknowledges its sin, iniquity loses power.

Grace illuminates the conscience once again.

3. Form the Conscience

Many Christians today live confused because **they do not know the doctrine of the Church.**

Moral ignorance leaves the soul vulnerable.

Reading Scripture, the Catechism, and the spiritual tradition is essential.

4. Do Not Normalize Evil

The Christian is called to live **in the world but not according to the world.**

This requires courage.

Sometimes it will mean:

- going against the current
- enduring criticism
- being misunderstood



But fidelity always has a cost.

5. Live in Grace

Iniquity is defeated through **holiness**.

Where there are holy souls:

- lies lose their strength
- sin loses its attraction
- the light of Christ shines more clearly

Holiness is not an ideal for a few.

It is **the true Christian revolution**.

9. The Great Deception of Our Time

Perhaps the greatest victory of iniquity today is that it has convinced many people **that it no longer exists**.

People speak about mistakes, failures, weaknesses...

but they no longer speak about sin.

And when the awareness of sin disappears, the need for salvation also disappears.

That is why Christians have an urgent mission:
to call things by their true name again.

Not in order to condemn the world.

But to **open the path to the mercy of God**.



10. A Hope That Iniquity Cannot Extinguish

Even though evil may seem to grow, Christian history reminds us of something fundamental:

iniquity never has the last word.

Christ has already conquered sin.

The cross appears to be defeat...
but it is the beginning of redemption.

And every soul that returns to God weakens the power of iniquity in the world.

Because the real battle is not fought only within the structures of society.

It is fought **in the human heart.**

And there, when a person opens himself to grace, **light always overcomes darkness.**

□ Final Reflection

The question is not only whether the world is full of iniquity.

The question is far more personal:

What place does God's truth occupy in my heart?

Because every time a Christian chooses the good, even in small things, something invisible but powerful happens:

iniquity loses ground...
and the Kingdom of God advances.