



drpam@drpamrussell.com

Pamela Russell Services

752 Blanding Blvd. #131 - Orange Park, FL 32065

904-830-0737 Phone • 904-272-5603 Fax

www.drpamrussell.com

Sin, Iniquity, Transgression

Psalm 32:5 - Amplified Bible, Classic Edition

5 I acknowledged my sin to You, and my iniquity I did not hide. I said, I will confess my transgressions to the Lord [continually unfolding the past till all is told]—then You [instantly] forgave me the guilt and iniquity of my sin. Selah [pause, and calmly think of that]!

A. Transgression

Transgression is a deliberate action that breaks and/or infringes upon a direct command. To choose to intentionally.

- Samson intentionally broke his Nazirite vow by touching a dead lion (Numbers 6:1–5; Judges 14:8–9) and allowing his hair to be cut (Judges 16:17).
- David was referring to this kind of sin when he wrote, “Blessed is the one whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered” (Psalm 32:1).
- When we knowingly run a stop sign, tell a lie, or blatantly disregard an authority, we are transgressing.

B. Sin

Sin is an action that falls short of what God desires (Romans 3:23). If we don’t allow God to rule completely then sin is able to rule. Sin happens when we do:

- Something against God or against a person (Exodus 10:16)
- The opposite of what is right (Galatians 5:17)
- Something that will have negative results (Proverbs 24:33–34).
- The wrong thing when you know what is right (James 4:17).
- Not do what you know is right (Numbers 15:27).

In order to further understand sin vs transgression, let’s look at it from a criminal perspective. In most true crimes there is an actus reus, the physical act, and a mens rea, or state of mind. These must occur at the same time for a crime to occur. We call this “concurrency.”

A sin lacks “mens rea”. There is not purposeful desire to disobey God. It is a point when the infraction happens while trying to accomplish something completely different.

In my effort to get to the meeting in time, I ran the red light.

Though it is wrong, the one acting did not plan to do it.

Iniquity – Iniquity happens when we do what we think is the right thing. Our actions are based on our own interpretation or our mindset. The problem is, it is wrong whether we think it is, want it to be, etc.

- Proverbs 14:12 - Amplified Bible, Classic Edition

12 There is a way which seems right to a man and appears straight before him, but at the end of it is the way of death.

You can only commit an iniquity once, the second time it is either a transgression or it is sin.