

# Job 13:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

How many are mine iniquities and sins? make me to know my transgression and my sin.

## Analysis

---

'How many are mine iniquities and sins? make me to know my transgression and my sin.' Job demands specificity. He wants to know his 'iniquities' (עֲוֹנוֹתִי, avonotay), 'sins' (עֲוֹנוֹתִי, chataot), and 'transgression' (עַבְדָּתִי, pesha—rebellion, revolt). The three terms cover different aspects of sin: missing the mark, guilt/punishment, and willful rebellion. Job isn't claiming sinlessness (7:21) but demanding his accusers specify charges. This is legally and pastorally wise: vague accusations can't be answered or corrected. The friends make general accusations; Job demands evidence. The Reformed practice of specific confession rather than vague admission of 'sinfulness' reflects this wisdom.

## Historical Context

---

Ancient legal practice required specific accusations, not vague character assassination. Job here appeals to proper legal procedure, demanding his accusers provide evidence for their claims.

## Related Passages

---

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

## Study Questions

---

1. Why is it important to distinguish between general acknowledgment of sinfulness and specific accusations?
2. How do vague accusations harm both accused and accuser?

## Interlinear Text

---

לְךָ כַּפֵּת הַעֲוֹנָה וְתִּשְׁבַּחַת  
H4100 H0 How many are mine iniquities and my sin my transgression  
H5771 H2403 H6588

וְתִּדְעַבְנִי ! תִּשְׁבַּחַת  
and my sin make me to know  
H2403 H3045

## Additional Cross-References

---

**Psalms 139:23** (Parallel theme): Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts:

---

From KJV Study • [kjvstudy.org](http://kjvstudy.org)