

Who Marks Iniquities?  
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"If You, O LORD, should mark iniquities, O LORD, who could stand? But with You there is forgiveness, that You may be feared." Psalm 130:3-4

That old phrase "mark iniquities" seems like such an interesting idea. The word that is translated "mark" can also mean to tend to, to keep, to observe. It's what a caretaker or a watchman does - if You, O LORD were to seek out all our sins and track them down and keep them forever - well, we'd all be in a world of hurt.

But that's not God's goal. We often, in our interactions with people, like to keep track of every little thing that they have done. And when it is most useful to us, we unleash the laundry list. We like the power and control that this gives us over people. Those petty games don't interest God. His business is forgiveness.

It is only because Jesus forgives sins, because He does away with them with His own death upon the Cross and resurrection, that we can approach Him rightly - that we can "fear" Him - understand the right reverence and awe with which we should behold Him. If you want to understand how wondrous and awesome God's love for you is, simply ponder the depths of your own sin - and He has forgiven all that and more.

Jesus doesn't throw His weight around against you. He doesn't nag you or bring up old guilt and whack you over the head with it to manipulate you. He simply forgives - and that is why He is the God we can always be free to worship - free to fear, love, and trust.