

We assess or “judge” people using any and every criteria available.

We cannot escape assessment of people or having **preferences** or personal **favorites**.

It is not wrong to feel an **affinity** or **attraction** to one person more than another.

FAVORITISM

(literally – *“lifting up the face”* vs. 1)

I don't want or seek to know someone simply because I **already** have **friends**. (*avoidance*)

I **manipulate** **circumstances** so that
opportunity is more/less available.

(exploitation)

I withhold time/resources simply because
I do not enjoy someone's personality.
(prejudice)

I treat folks **differently** (favorably/unfavorably)
based on external factors. (*discrimination*)

“Since you call on a Father who judges each man’s WORK impartially ...” (*1 Peter 1:17*)

“Man looks upon the outward appearance, but God looks upon the heart” (*1 Sam. 6:17*)

vs. 4 – judges with evil thoughts

JUDGES (civil/criminal) are expected to base verdicts on behavior rather than appearance.

What factor is God's **love/value** based upon?

God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that **WHOEVER** (literally = everyone which) believes in him will not perish but have everlasting life. (*John 3:16*)

What factor should our **love/value** be based upon?

If you keep the royal law found in Scripture, “Love your neighbor as yourself,” you are doing right. (*James 2:8*)

INSTINCT sees a particularity .
LOVE sees a person.

We cannot help but notice differences
between people. **SO WHAT?**

**Noticing a characteristic is a DIFFERENT
REALITY from choosing a behavior.**

Behavioral response to external (nonmoral) differences? We should be OBLIVIOUS.

BECAUSE

- ✓ We are motivated by the Lord (not the person).
- ✓ We are performing our service unto the Lord (not the person).