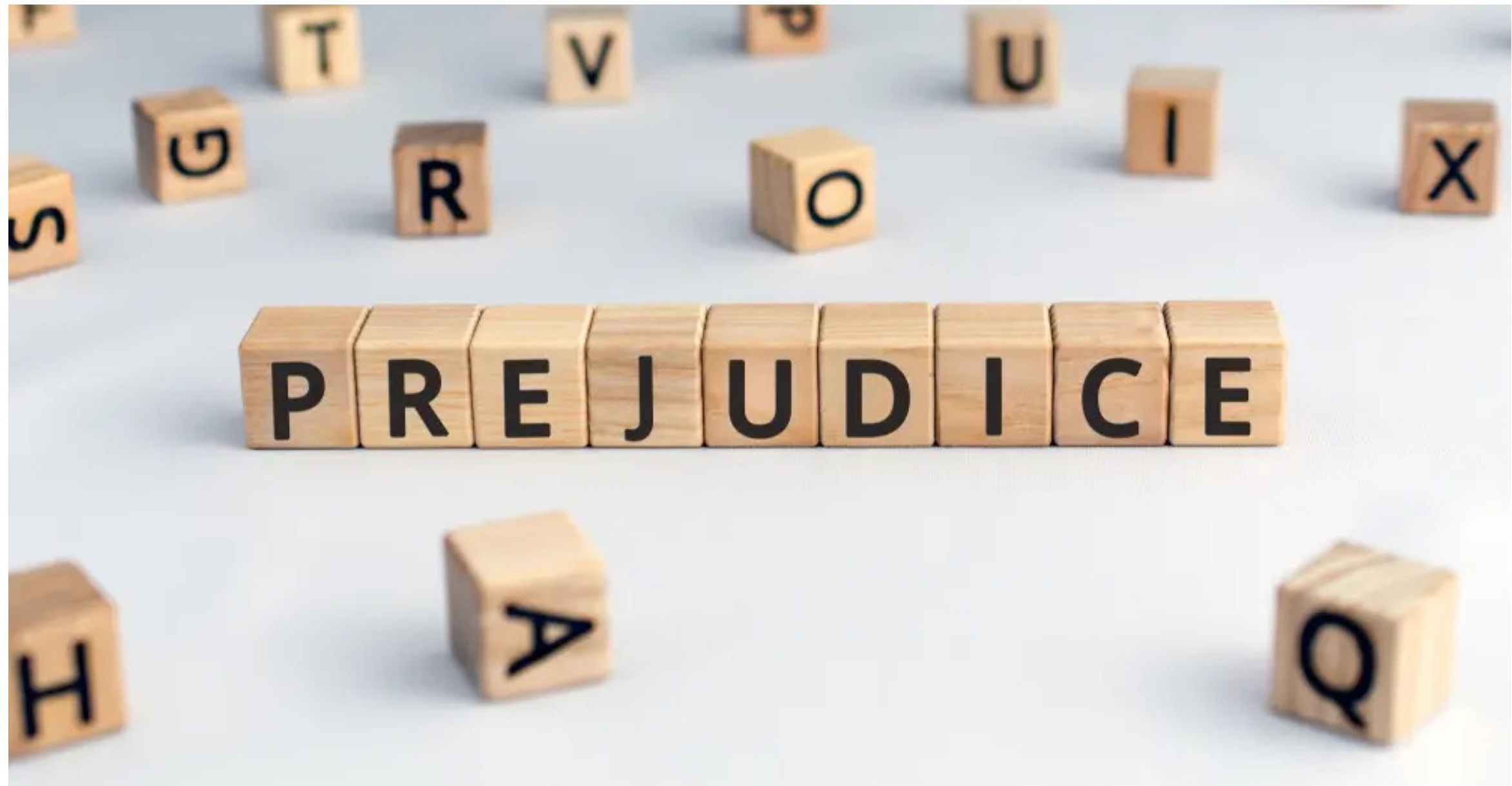


**P R E J U D I C E**



Human beings are poor examiners, subject to superstition, bias, prejudice, and a profound tendency to see what they want to see rather than what is really there.

M. Scott Peck **The Road Less Traveled**

**PROVERBS 14:12** There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end, it leads to death.

**WORLD VIEW:** ✓ teachings  
✓ experiences ✓ choice  
(heart/will)

The purposes of man's heart are deep  
waters... (20:5)

In his heart a man plans his course... (16:9)

Above all else guard your heart. For it is a  
wellspring of life. (4:23)

All a man's ways seem right to him,  
but the Lord knows the HEART. (21:2)

God has provided **REVELATION** to shape my **CONVICTION** so that I do not live out the **chosen prejudices** of my heart.

Pay attention and listen... apply your heart to what I teach (these proverbs). It is pleasing [to God] when you have them in your heart and have them ready on your lips. *(22:17)*



If you say, “But I know nothing about this,” does not God who weighs the heart perceive it? Does not he who guards your life know it? Will he not repay each person according to what he has done?  
*(24:12)*

**PROVERBS 3:29-30** Do not plot harm against your neighbor who lives truthfully near you. Do not accuse a man for no reason when he has done you no harm.

Within the fallen heart lies the **capability** to plot, accuse, hate, or mistreat a fellow human **for no** reason.

He who conceals his hatred has lying lips...  
*(10:18)*

- It is not good to punish an innocent person or to flog an official for their integrity.  
*(17:26)*

God will CHANGE this when his love is allowed entry into my life.

- Hatred stirs up dissension but, but love covers over all wrongs.

*(10:12)*

Let love and faithfulness never leave you. Bind them around your neck. Write them on the tablet of your heart. Then you will win favor and a good name in the sight of God and man. (3:3-4)

**PROVERBS 24:23-25** To show partiality in judging is not good. Whoever says to the guilty “You are innocent” -- will be cursed and denounced. But it will go well with those who convict the guilty. Rich blessings will come upon them.







My judgments must NEVER be based on external conditions or characteristics.

Do not exploit the poor BECAUSE THEY ARE POOR or seek to crush them in court. For the Lord will take up their case and plunder those who plunder them.

*(22:22-23)*



Why do folks exercise prejudice based on externals? Many motives... example:

**IGNORANCE** – A man derides his neighbor because he LACKS judgment. *(11:12)*

**MONEY** – To show partiality is not good, yet a man will do wrong for a piece of bread. *(28:21)*

**ANGER** – A hot tempered man (past issues?) stirs up dissension. *(15:18)*

**POPULARITY** – The poor are shunned even by their neighbors, but the rich have many friends.  
*(14:20)*

I must reject prejudice because of **God's expectations**, no matter the motivation.

## God's expectations?

- Love your neighbor as yourself.  
*(Mark 12:31)*

- All men [nations] came from one man and “live, move, and have their being” in one God... therefore, are of equal value and purpose. *(Acts 17:26-28)*

**PROVERBS 18:13** He who answers before listening... That is his folly and his shame.

**PROVERBS 18:17** The first to present his case seems right UNTIL another steps forward and questions him.

When I judge without all the facts,  
I am **practicing prejudice.**

**TIME. WORK. HONESTY.**

Prejudice is not simply a human relationship issue. Pride and evil expresses itself in prejudice against God.

A man's own folly ruins his life, yet his heart rages against the Lord. (19:3)