

## **Food for Thought**

For the week of June 29, 2014

*(Questions and Scriptures for further personal study)*

---

1. It can be hard to avoid "playing favorites," especially when there are certain co-workers, family members, friends, etc. who we get along with better with than others. What can be learned from God's view of favoritism that could help us when we're tempted to play favorites?

Acts 10:34 – 35

Romans 2:6 – 13

Romans 10:12 – 13

Ephesians 6:9

In what area of your life would it be most challenging to follow God's example of not playing favorites?

2. One of the ways we can avoid favoritism is to learn to appreciate people who are more challenging for us to get along with and to strive to see them in a different light. Read Ephesians 4:1-3 and write down Paul's instruction about how we can bridge some of our differences and unify in Christ.

Which of these behaviors presents the biggest challenge to you if you were to put all the behaviors in the above verses into action?

3. One of the more subtle ways of evaluating our personal relationship with God is taking a look at how we treat his people. What do the following verses have to say about how our treatment of others impacts our relationship with God?

John 13:35

1 John 3:17

1 John 4:12

1 John 4:20

## Food for Thought

For the week of June 29, 2014

*(Questions and Scriptures for further personal study)*

1. It can be hard to avoid “playing favorites,” especially when there are certain co-workers, family members, friends, etc. who we get along with better with than others. What can be learned from God’s view of favoritism that could help us when we’re tempted to play favorites?

### **Acts 10:34 – 35**

34 Then Peter began to speak: “I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism 35 but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right. [NIV]

### **Romans 2:6 – 13**

6 God “will repay each person according to what they have done.” 7 To those who by persistence in doing good seek glory, honor and immortality, he will give eternal life. 8 But for those who are self-seeking and who reject the truth and follow evil, there will be wrath and anger. 9 There will be trouble and distress for every human being who does evil: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile; 10 but glory, honor and peace for everyone who does good: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. 11 For God does not show favoritism.

12 All who sin apart from the law will also perish apart from the law, and all who sin under the law will be judged by the law. 13 For it is not those who hear the law who are righteous in God’s sight, but it is those who obey the law who will be declared righteous. [NIV]

### **Romans 10:12 – 13**

12 For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, 13 for, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” [NIV]

### **Ephesians 6:9**

9 And masters, treat your slaves in the same way. Do not threaten them, since you know that he who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and there is no favoritism with him. [NIV]

In what area of your life would it be most challenging to follow God’s example of not playing favorites?

2. One of the ways we can avoid favoritism is to learn to appreciate people who are more challenging for us to get along with and to strive to see them in a different light. Read Ephesians 4:1-3 and write down Paul’s instruction about how we can bridge some of our differences and unify in Christ.

### **Ephesians 4:1-3**

Unity and Maturity in the Body of Christ

1 As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. 2 Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. 3 Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. [NIV]

Which of these behaviors presents the biggest challenge to you if you were to put all the behaviors in the above verses into action?

3. One of the more subtle ways of evaluating our personal relationship with God is taking a look at how we treat his people. What do the following verses have to say about how our treatment of others impacts our relationship with God?

**John 13:35**

35 By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” [NIV]

**1 John 3:17**

17 If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? [NIV]

**1 John 4:12**

12 No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us. [NIV]

**1 John 4:20**

20 Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. [NIV]