

# Values Matter Discovery Starters

## We Value People

### 14. VALUE THE INDIVIDUAL

YWAM is called to value each individual. We believe in equal opportunity and justice for all. Created in the image of God, people of all nationalities, ages and functions have distinctive contributions and callings. We are committed to honoring God-given leadership and ministry gifts in both men and women.

[Gen 1:27](#); [Lev 19:13-16](#); [Deu 16:18-20](#); [Psa 139:13-16](#); [Mar 8:34-37](#);  
[Act 10:34-35](#); [Gal 3:28](#); [Eph 6:5-9](#); [Heb 2:11-12](#); [Jam 2:1-9](#)

### Value #14 – Value the Individual: No Partiality!

#### Biblical Foundation:

*Slaves, obey your earthly masters with deep respect and fear. Serve them sincerely as you would serve Christ. Try to please them all the time, not just when they are watching you. As slaves of Christ, do the will of God with all your heart. Work with enthusiasm, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people. Remember that the Lord will reward each one of us for the good we do, whether we are slaves or free.*

*Masters, treat your slaves in the same way. Don't threaten them; remember, you both have the same Master in heaven, and he has no favorites (Eph 6:5-9).*

#### Discovery Starter:

Paul's words seem to be an uncomfortable endorsement of slavery. Is he just perpetuating the continuance of an unjust system? But wait! Though his words initially reflect the accepted perspective of his society ... Paul had a transformative surprise up his sleeve! After rehearsing the expected obligations of a slave, Paul unexpectedly turns to the masters and tells them to treat their slaves "in the same way"! In the course of that brief sentence he turned unjust social hierarchy on its head and established egalitarianism as the new gospel norm. It is impossible to enslave someone if you are expected to serve them in the same way they serve you. They are no longer your slave, but your brother.

Paul anchors this thought in the most solid of all foundations: in the character and nature of God. Paul's concluding punch line is that this is so because our "Master in heaven ... has no favorites." He is building upon Moses' understanding that "the great

God, the mighty and awesome God ... shows no partiality and cannot be bribed. He ensures that orphans and widows receive justice. He shows love to the foreigners living among you and gives them food and clothing. So you, too ..." (Deu 10:17-19; see Rom 2:11; Gal 2:6; Col 3:25).

So you too... Because God sees all people as valuable, so must we. Whenever our societies divide people into categories and value one more than another, they do not reflect God's perspective. Whether "Jew or Gentile, slave or free, male and female" (Gal 3:28) – all people are valuable. This is true, even though all people have sinned and "fall short of God's glorious standard" (Rom 3:23). Right belief and right behavior is not a pre-condition for being valued. God valued and loved us all even when "we were still sinners" (Rom 5:8). Every human being is valuable, because each one is created by God in his image (Gen 1:25-27; 9:6; 1Co 11:7; Col 1:15-17; Jam 3:9). Every individual has inestimable worth (Psa 72:14; Mat 6:26; 10:31; 12:12; 16:26), created with specific gifts and talents, which are to be discovered and developed for that individual's God-given potential to be fully realized.

### **Keep Going:**

Have you ever considered yourself better than – or worse than – others because of nationality, education, socio-economic standing, or any other reason? If so, what needs to change? Take time to repent and ask God to help you see people as he sees them. Ask God to help you see yourself as he sees you. What steps can you take this day to communicate to someone else their incredible value?

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