

True Religion

James 1:26-27

I. The Characteristics Of A Worthless Religion (26, cf. 22)

A. A Mouth Out Of Control (26a; cf. Col 3:8-9)

^{26a} If anyone thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue

- Hopeless Words (1 Cor 13:1)
- Hurtful Words – Insults (Prov 11:9; 12:18)
- Coarse Words (Ps 10:7, Ex 20:7)
- Sinful Words (Eph 4:29; 5:4)

B. A Heart Devoid Of Truth (26b; cf. 2 Cor 11:4)

^{26b} but deceives his heart, this person's religion is worthless.

II. The Characteristics Of A Pure Religion (27)

A. A Sacrificial Love That Serves (cf. Ps 68:5; Mt 25:43-45; Jn 21:15-19; 14:15)

^{27a} Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction,

B. An Untarnished Holiness That Shines (27c; cf. Rom 12:2)

^{27b} and to keep oneself unstained from the world.

Conclusion:

1. True religion combines truth and love. Truth that doesn't deceive and love that serves.
2. Evaluate the evidence of our faith:
 - What does our mouth say about our faith?
 - What does our mind know is true about our faith?
 - How is our love a demonstration of faith?
 - How is our life an evidence of our faith?

Discussion:

1. How do you know if you're definitely in the right religion?
2. How do we know if our faith in Christ is really genuine?
3. Why do some churches find it easier to talk about truth and not showing love? Why do other churches find it easier to show love but not deal with the truth of God's Word? How can we great at simultaneous living truth and giving love?
4. What are some ways you can minister to the people with the greatest needs during the Covid19 era?