

A TIME TO GROW UP
"Worth While Religion"
James 1:26-27
Part 2

REVIEW: THREE AREAS OF YOUR LIFE WILL BEAR WITNESS OF GENUINE RELIGION

1. Vs 27

a) "Religion that is pure and undefiled before God"

1) "Religion" - refers to your external, ceremonial observances.

2. Vs 27

a) "Before God" - WOW!!! Means God is watching.

3. Vs 26

a) "If anyone THINKS he is religious"

I. A CONTROLLED TONGUE

A. USING A BIT

1. Vs 26

a) "and does not bridle his tongue" (What an unbridled tongue looks like)

1) Gossip

2) Slander

3) Lying

4) Outbursts of anger

5) Boasting (bragging)

2. What's the problem with an unbridled tongue?

a) That persons faith is worthless!!!

3. Vs 26

a) "but deceives (seduces) his heart"

b) "this person's religion is worthless"

B. COLLATERAL DAMAGE

1. *James 4:11-12*

C. MOTIVATION OF THE TONGUE

1. **QUESTION:** "Are you hurting or helping others with your tongue?"

2. *Ephesians 4:29*

D. TRANSFORMATION OF THE TONGUE

1. When the Word of God and the Holy Spirit of God take a hold of your life.
 - a) There will be no problem controlling your tongue.

II. YOUR COMPASSION WILL BEAR WITNESS OF GENUINE RELIGION

1. Vs 27

a) *"to visit the orphans and widows"*

1) "visit" - doesn't mean to drop by every once in a while.

a. It means to care for, to examine closely, which may take some time.

A. TO CARE FOR THE NEEDY

1. Vs 27

a) *"to visit orphans and widows in their affliction"*

2. 1 Timothy 5:3

3. Isaiah 1:11-17

4. James 1:27

5. To live out a faith that is valuable to God, we must reach out to those who cannot help themselves.

a) Why? *Romans 5:8*

B. TAKING FULL RESPONSIBILITY

1. James 2:4

a) *"What good is it my brothers"*

1) Of what VALUE is it?

b) *"if someone says he has faith, but does not have works?"*

c) *"Can that kind of faith save him?"* ANSWER - NO

2. What good is your faith when you have the means to help a person in crisis, but you don't?

3. 1 John 3:16-18

4. **Matthew 25:31-46**

5. **WOW!!!** When you obey the command to help the helpless, you are in line for a blessing.

C. **BLESSED TO BE A BLESSING**

1. Here's a question from God!!

a) Is anyone else benefitting from my **GRACE TO YOU???**

2. **Luke 10:25-37**

D. **BE A NEIGHBOR**

1. **Vs 27**

a) "**Religion that is pure and undefiled before God**"

1) That would be a religion that bends down and starts bandaging wounds.

III. **YOUR CHARACTER**

1. **Vs 27c**

a) "**and to keep oneself unstained from the world**"

2. **James 1:27c**

a) "**and to keep**"

1) means to preserve, to watch over, **TO GUARD**

3. **James 4:4**

A. **WHAT'S WRONG WITH THE WORLD?**

1. **Vs 27c**

a) "**world**" - kosmos - which means to arrange

2. Satan is arranging the systems of the world to exclude God.

3. Satan's agenda is simple!!!

a) He wants you to be best friends with this "**world's system**".

1) With your **Finances**

2) With your **Friends**

- 3) With your **Fun**
- b) Satan wants you to fall in love with the world.

4. 1 *John 2:15*

5. *Romans 12:2*

6. 1 *Corinthians 11:32* Ouch

B. AVOIDING STAINS

1. Vs27

- a) "**Unstained**" - means to be unspotted

2. **Why?**

3. **POINT:** When believers get stained or spotted by the world, all the world looks @ is the stain.

4. 1 *Timothy 6:17*

C. REMOVING STAINS

1. **Very Important:** Not all stains are created equal!!

- a) There are big ones - come from indulgence and not caring what kind mess they make.
- b) Small Stains - come from not paying attention.

2. All of us get stains.

a) 1 *John 1:9*

- 1) Confession and repentance

3. Remember there is no stain too deep that Jesus can't remove.

- a) He specializes in stain removal.