Religion That is Pure

Ken Chapman · James 1:22–27

INTRODUCTION

- How rare it is to find something that's pure. Something that's 100% something without anything else in it.
- Scripture would have us to know that a relationship with God is all important, but it involves religion.
- James tells us that we're to have religion, that it's a part of our relationship to God, but it is to be pure.

1 Pure Religion Involves Self-Examination

James 1:23–24

- Religion is my response to what God has done for me.
- Pure religion is so personal that it demands and must involve this idea of examining myself.
- For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his face in a mirror.
- The word of God is that mirror in which we can see ourselves for who we truly are.
- God, show me who I am. While showing me who you want me to be.

2 Acceptable Religion Involves Bridling the Tongue

James 1:26; Matthew 12:33–34; James 3

- If any among you thinks he is religious, but deceives and does not bridle his own tongue, but deceives his heart, this one's religion is useless.
- But if you don't control your tongue, it's all a sham.
- For out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks.
- When I examine myself in light of God's word, I realize what I say reveals who I really am.
- Rather than saying that's the way I am, repent.
- If our religion is to be real and pure, we're going to control what we say.

3 Pure Religion Demands That I Care for Others

James 1:27

- If my religion is going to be genuine and real and a hundred percent, it's going to include this, to visit the orphans and widows in their trouble.
- Pure religion demands that I care for others.
- So visit here carries with it the idea of seeing to their needs.
- Orphans and widows here is not a limiting phrase. But it's an inclusive, not an exclusive, but an inclusive phrase.
- It comes to typify those who don't have the means, the resources, and the people to take care of them.
- For me to be their family, to see to their needs.

4 Pure Religion Requires Living a Pure Life

James 1:27

- Pure religion requires living a pure life.
- If you want your religion to be real, you need to keep yourself unspotted from the world.
- He issues the challenge not to be covered in the world, but not to be spotted.
- Love not the world nor the things that are in the world. For anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.
- It also must mean some kind of spiritual separation when I cannot avoid being in the world and around the world.
- Whatever the fallout and the ramifications of that are, I'm going to be different. I'm going to be pure.

> THE CHALLENGE
>
> **Look into the Word of God honestly and say, Lord, what would you have me to do in order to be saved?**

MY NOTES