

What is "pure religion?"



James 1:26-27

Religion is not referring to a body of beliefs. It's referring to worship. Christianity is not religion. It is the person and work of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Either you have Christ or you do not. James is saying that if a proclaiming "religious" person doesn't control his or her tongue, then his religion, regardless of what it may be, is in vain. A real problem today in churches today is that a lot of Christians can't control what comes out of their mouths. How can a church grow, please the Lord, reach the lost, if there is dissention instead of unity? A prerequisite of worth-while religion is controlling the tongue. James goes into great deal about this in chapter 3.

1. Pure religion is _____ not _____. "...to visit the fatherless and widows..."
 - Mark 7:6-7 & 10:43-45
2. Always be ready to meet _____, "...in their affliction..."
3. _____ when you have been helped. Deuteronomy 8:10-20
4. Don't _____ your accomplishments. Phil. 4:11-13 & John 12:32
 - Pride Proverbs 6:16-17
5. Stay _____. James 1:27 "...keep himself unspotted from the world."

