

James 1:21-27 “Pure Religion pt 2” ENCORE

- 1) True Christianity is the religion of the heart. If the heart of man is genuinely converted to Christ, there will be observable results in the lives of God’s people. What are the two evidences of pure and undefiled religion (v. 27)?**

- 2) According to James, what is the right response of a child of God to the Word of God?**

- 3) What examples does James give as behavior indicative of true faith?**

- 4) Why do you think James singled out these particular actions?**

- 5) Helping and serving the poor (widows & orphans) in our modern day can be difficult. It is a complicated issue and it can even be difficult to identify who is truly needy.**
 - a. Who are some of the neediest people in our community?**

 - b. What are some ways we (or you) can minister to them?**

- 6) How does pure religion differ from the wrath of man (v.20 & 27)?**

- 7) A nobleman named Sir Leonard Wood once visited the King of France and the King was so pleased with him he was invited for dinner the next day. Sir Leonard went to the palace and the King meeting him in one of the halls, said, “Why, Sir Leonard, I did not expect to see you. How is it that you are here?” “Did not your majesty invite me to dine with you?” said the astonished guest. “Yes,” replied the King, “but you did not answer my invitation.” It was then that Sir Leonard Wood uttered one of the wisest statements of his life. He replied, “A king’s invitation is never to be answered, but to be obeyed.”**
 - a) If the president of the United States asked you to do something how would you respond?**

 - b) If Jesus Christ came and asked you to do something how would you respond?**

 - c) How does this relate to our discussion (what is the Bible)?**

 - d) Why is there sometimes a disconnection between hearing the word & obedience?**

- 8) How do humility and obedience go hand in hand?**

- 9) Many Christians possess a lot of biblical information yet sadly many of the same people do not allow God’s word to transform their lives. What steps can you take to keep from falling into this common trap?**

- 10) Take, fill out and return a Ministry Survey Sheet**

James 2:1-13 No Partiality LA

Monday (James 2:1) Partiality is defined as “preference or bias in favor of” and “an inclination to favor one group over alternatives” The word partiality is synonymous with prejudice or favoritism. Why do you think the people James was writing to might have been struggling with showing partiality? (Hint: why do you struggle with partiality?) Think about the circumstances surrounding the writing of this epistle (James 1:1-2). How could trials affect the way you relate to people? How might partiality show its self during hard times?

Tuesday (James 2:2-4) The human tendency is to give preference to those who seem to be rich, why do you think that is? Could it be that we hope they might give us something or our friendship with them might benefit us? James says that to prefer the rich because they look good and to dishonor the poor (because they don’t look good) is in effect setting yourself up as a judge (an evil judge).

Wednesday (James 2:5) Men look at the outside “a man with gold rings, in fine apparel” (v.2) but God looks at the heart. Notice how we miss the mark when we make judgments based on appearances; God has chosen the poor! The poor (most of the Jewish believers at this time) were actually rich because of all they had in Christ.

Thursday (James 2:6-7) Now notice how we miss the mark when we “judge” the rich based on their “beautiful appearance” most of them (certainly the ones James is talking about) are God haters! Considering the first seven verses of James chapter two how should you relate to (judge) people? The short answer is to see people as God sees.

Friday (James 2:8-11) “If” again James is helping us to see how our actions (thoughts & words) need to match up with what we say we believe “If you really fulfill the royal law.” How well do people love others as much as or better than themselves? That is indeed a high calling, but perfectly modeled by Jesus Christ “Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for his friends” (John 15:13). James also tells us in this passage that there is an inconsistency in *saying* you keep the law (especially the royal law) but then showing partiality or judging people by what you see on the outside.

Saturday (James 2:12-13) I don’t know about you but I am extremely thankful that I will be judged by the law of liberty (no one can keep the whole Law flawlessly). Now let’s think about that truth together; why are those who are “in Christ” (saved by the grace of God through faith alone in Jesus Christ) judged by the law of liberty instead of the Law or even the law of sin & death? It is only because of the grace of God! Could we say it is because of the great mercy of God? Listen! If you have been shown such great mercy by God shouldn’t you of all people be a vessel overflowing with that same mercy?