



The Test of True Religion

James 1:26-27

James 1:26-27 (ESV)

“If anyone thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his heart, this person’s religion is worthless. Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.”

I. Do you care about what you say?

Matthew 12:33-34 (ESV)

“Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or make the tree bad and its fruit bad, for the tree is known by its fruit. You brood of vipers! How can you speak good, when you are evil? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.”

Galatians 5:22-23 (ESV)

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.”

II. Do you care about the marginalized?

1 Corinthians 4:7 (ESV)

“For who sees anything different in you? What do you have that you did not receive? If then you received it, why do you boast as if you did not receive it?”

Mark 10:13-16 (ESV)

“And they were bringing children to him that he might touch them, and the disciples rebuked them. But when Jesus saw it, he was indignant and said to them, “Let the children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God. Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it.” And he took them in his arms and blessed them, laying his hands on them.”

III. Do you care about your soul?

Proverbs 4:23 (ESV)

“Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life.”

John 17:15 (ESV)

“I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one.”