

The Test of Pure Religion

James 1:26-27

April 23, 2023

Threefold Test of Pure Religion

1. You Have Speech That Honors God :: V. 26

Why is speech an evidence of pure religion?

Matthew 12:34 - *Out of the overflow of the heart, the mouth speaks.*

Examples of sins with the mouth:

Gossip, slander, backbiting talk, corrupting talk, coarse or crude joking, making fun of other people, unnecessary or harsh sarcasm, clamor, lying, cursing, blaspheming God's name, sowing disunity, complaining, speaking carelessly, boasting, revealing secrets that others have told you

The path to changing your speech is through your heart:

Ephesians 4:29-32; 5:4

2. Your Life is Characterized by Serving Others :: V. 27

James is saying what God says throughout Scripture: we must be selfless.

Philippians 2:3-4 - *Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.*

1 John 3:16-18 - *By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.*

3. You Keep Yourself Unstained from the World :: V. 27

The "world" generally refers to the ungodly worldview and lifestyle that characterizes those who are not Christians.

James 4:4 - *You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.*

Ephesians 5:5-12