

Real Religion...

SHOOT
up and
SERVE!

James 1:26-27

Thank you.

James 1:26-27

**SHUT
up and
SERVE!**

Where we are in James...

- Jesus changed James
- God's plan for suffering
- That one thing: Wisdom
- Anger is bad
- Do God's Word

James 1:26-27

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So Now James is asking the question
“What does following Jesus really
look like?

- Outward expression?
- Mark of the Christian?
- Fancy language?
- Rites and rituals?

James 1:26-27

**SHUT
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How slick, happy, cool, pretty and well-dressed do we need to be to show a lost world what it means to be a follower of Christ?



SHUT
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If anyone considers himself religious and yet does not keep a tight rein on his tongue, he deceives himself and his religion is worthless. Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.

James 1:26-27

**SHUT
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**What does the word
RELIGION mean to you?**

James 1:26-27

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In this passage, James uses the word *threskeia* or *threskos* and it means an outward observance of faith, of forms and ceremonies

James 1:26-27

SHUT
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**Before James tells us
what TRUE RELIGION is,
he first helps us
understand what it is NOT**

James 1:26-27

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Two Examples of “Religion”

Cornelius v. the Pharisees

In Caesarea there lived a Roman army officer named Cornelius, who was a captain of the Italian Regiment. He was a devout man who feared the God of Israel, as did his entire household. He gave generously to charity and was a man who regularly prayed to God.

Acts 2:1-2

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Two Examples of “Religion”

Cornelius v. the Pharisees

- Don't do your 'acts of righteousness' before men When you give to the needy, shut up
- And when you pray, do it privately
- And when you pray, shut up
- When you fast, don't look like you've sucked on sour grapes

Matthew 6

**SHUT
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All Talk and No Trousers

James 1:26-27

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There are 3 Sad Realities for those practicing this Not-So-Real Religion

1. Self deceived
2. Worthless
3. Counterfeit

James 1:26-27

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The Counterfeit \$1 Bill

James 1:26-27

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James 1:27

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**True Religion is an
inside out proposition**

James 1:27

**SHUT
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Jesus' example: the Cup and the Plate

Luke 11:39-42

SHUT
up and
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Outside...

SHUT
up and
SERVE!



Inside...

SHUT
up and
SERVE!

Do Justice.

Love Mercy.

**Walk Humbly with your
God.**

Micah 6:8

**SHUT
up and
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**Who do we serve?
Serving Widows and
Orphans zeros in on the
very heart of God**

James 1:27

**SHUT
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He defends the cause of
the fatherless and the
widows, and the alien,
giving them food and
clothing.

Deut. 10:18

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Who are our widows and orphans?

Widows - Orphans - Immigrants

Aliens – Broken families

The sick and diseased -

The hungry

James 1:27

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The Impact on others is obvious, but the impact on us is transforming – “...to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.”

James 1:27

**SHUT
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This is the kind of fast I want. I want you to remove the sinful chains, to tear away the ropes of the burdensome yoke, to set free the oppressed, and to break every burdensome yoke. I want you to share your food with the hungry and to provide shelter for homeless, oppressed people. When you see someone naked, clothe him! Don't turn your back on your own flesh and blood!

Isaiah 58:6-9

**SHUT
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Then your light will shine like the sunrise; your restoration will quickly arrive; your godly behavior will go before you, and the Lord's splendor will be your rear guard. Then you will call out, and the Lord will respond; you will cry out, and he will reply, 'Here I am.'

Isaiah 58:6-9

**SHUT
up and
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When we shut up and serve,
then...

- Our light will shine (witness)
- All the yuck in us is healed
- God's got our backs
- He hears our prayers and answer
- Comfort in distress

Isaiah 5:6-9

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The Good News

SHOOT
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of True Religion