



Pure Religion!

November 12, 2023 – James 1:26-27
Pastor Jon Pickens

The Passage

“If anyone thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his heart, this person’s religion is worthless.”

-James 1:26

“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.”

-James 1:27

The Two Main Points of James:

1. Pure religion involves action!
2. Pure religion involves a pursuit of holiness!

What does that mean in our world today?

1. Beware of Progressive Christianity.
2. Beware of Passive Christianity!
3. Resolve to pursue a Pure Christianity.

Discussion Questions:

1. What were some observations or questions you have based on the teaching of James 1:26-27?
2. How have you experienced Progressive Christianity in your life?
3. How have you experienced Passive Christianity in your life?
4. Why are both Progressive Christianity and Passive Christianity dangerous to the Body of Christ?
5. What does it look like in your life to be a person who is committed to personal holiness and compassionate action?
6. What action are you going to take as a result of what God's Word teaches?

Next Steps:

1. If you would like to become a follower of Jesus, please let us know. Pastor Jon will be down front after the service and would love to connect.
2. If you are interested in baptism, let Pastor Jon know in person or email him at pj@fbclowell.org.
3. Read the Bible with us to know God and respond to Him! Below is our current schedule.

| November 2023 (Two Year Reading Plan, Month 23) | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Week 1 Starting Oct 30 Nov 3 | Week 2 Starting Nov 6 | Week 3 Starting Nov 13 | Week 4 Starting Nov 20 | Week 5 Starting Nov 27 |
| Day 1: 1 Cor 1-3 | Day 1: 1 Cor 13-14 | Day 1: 2 Cor 11-13 | Day 1: Phil 1-4 | Day 1: 1 Tim 1-3 |
| Day 2: 1 Cor 4-6 | Day 2: 1 Cor 15-16 | Day 2: Gal 1-3 | Day 2: Col 1-4, Philemon | Day 2: 1 Tim 4-6 |
| Day 3: 1 Cor 7-8 | Day 3: 2 Cor 1-3 | Day 3: Gal 4-6 | Day 3: 1 Thess 1-3 | Day 3: 2 Tim 1-4 |
| Day 4: 1 Cor 9-10 | Day 4: 2 Cor 4-7 | Day 4: Eph 1-3 | Day 4: 1 Thess 4-5 | Day 4: Titus 1-3 |
| Day 5: 1 Cor 11-12 | Day 5: 2 Cor 8-10 | Day 5: Eph 4-6 | Day 5: 2 Thess 1-3 | Day 5: Heb 1-3 |
| ¹⁷ But the wisdom that comes from heaven is <u>first of all</u> pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. ¹⁸ Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness. James 3:17,18 (NIV) | | | | |

What action are you going to take as a result of what God's Word teaches?