

## What Does God Require of Me?

Isaiah 1:1-20, James 1:27

A frequent danger of mankind is the tendency that we have to become preoccupied with “doing” and we neglect “being”. As a result, we drift into mediocrity and complacency, this leads to tolerance and slothfulness, our hearts become hardened, our compassion becomes calloused and holiness becomes merely an outward expression.

Ultimately: We end up playing church.

According to James true religion is reflected in 2 ways:

1. True religion is evidenced by helping the helpless
2. True religion is evidenced by remaining undefiled by the world

Isaiah identifies 3 things one must do to break this cycle in our lives:

### 1<sup>st</sup>: Look at your present condition

- A. We must remember our roots
- B. We must acknowledge our condition
- C. We must diagnose our disease
- D. We must admit our desolation

### 2<sup>nd</sup>: Listen to the Word of the Lord

God’s message:

Your Religious acts are worthless!

I don’t need them, I don’t want them, I don’t delight in them

### 3<sup>rd</sup>: Learn to Make the Appropriate Changes

We must look to the remedy: “be not a hearer only but be a doer...”

The Lesson: *Help the helpless and remain undefiled by the world!*

Why is this the ultimate result?

- it addresses injustice
- it offers help and hope to the helpless and hopeless
- it meets very real needs in very practical ways

There is something much bigger, grander, greater that is going on:

- it reflects the heart of God!

Our righteous living and care for the orphans and widows is a beautiful picture of the gospel to the world.

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A frequent danger of mankind is the tendency that we have to become preoccupied with “\_\_\_\_\_” and we neglect “\_\_\_\_\_”. As a result, we drift into mediocrity and complacency, this leads to tolerance and slothfulness, our hearts become hardened, our compassion becomes calloused and holiness becomes merely an \_\_\_\_\_.

Ultimately: We end up \_\_\_\_\_.

According to James true religion is reflected in 2 ways:

1. True religion is evidenced by \_\_\_\_\_
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- A. We must remember our \_\_\_\_\_
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### 2<sup>nd</sup>: Listen to the \_\_\_\_\_

God’s message:

Your Religious acts are \_\_\_\_\_!

I don’t \_\_\_\_\_ them, I don’t \_\_\_\_\_ them, I don’t \_\_\_\_\_ in them

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We must look to the remedy: “be not a hearer only but be a doer...”

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Why is this the ultimate result?

- it addresses \_\_\_\_\_
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There is something much bigger, grander, greater that is going on:

- it reflects the \_\_\_\_\_!

Our righteous living and care for the orphans and widows is a beautiful picture of \_\_\_\_\_ to the world.