

June 14, 2020
The Bridge Bible Fellowship
Pastor Paul S. Brown
James 1:26-27

“Respond Properly to the Word of God – Part 4”

- I. Prescript (1:1)**
- II. Be Joyful in Trials (1:2–15)**
- III. Stop Being Misled (1:16-18)**
- IV. Respond Properly to the Word of God (1:19-27)**
 - A. Reception (19-21)**
 - B. Action (22-25)**
 - C. Transformation (26-27)**
 - 1. Worthless Religion – putrid heart (26)**
 - a. False Proclamation (26a)**
 - b. No Transformation (26b)**
 - c. Eternal Damnation (26c)**
 - 2. Worthwhile Religion – pure heart (27)**
 - a. God’s Proclamation (27a) – “in the sight of our God and Father is this”**
 - b. Genuine Transformation (26-27)**
 - 1) Controlled Tongue (26b) – “bridle his tongue”**
 - 2) Compassionate Heart (27b) – “visit orphans and widows in their distress”**
 - 3) Clean Life (27c) – “keep oneself unstained by the world”**
 - c. Eternal Salvation – “pure and undefiled religion”**

So What?

Discussion & Application:

1. Read Jer. 31:31-34 and Ezek. 36:25-27. In the New Covenant, what does the indwelling Spirit do in the life of a true believer? What does the New Testament say are some evidences that a person is a true disciple (learner; follower) of Jesus? (Use John 14-16 and 1 John to get started, then add other passages to the discussion)
2. In James 1:27, is he saying that a person who does these things will go to heaven because they do these things? Is this a comprehensive list? What point is James making? What are the three dimensions of a person's life that James summarizes in his description of the person whose religion is genuine?
3. How are you doing in the three areas that James mentions in 1:26-27? Share with one another some specific passages of Scripture that have helped you:
 - Control your tongue (what you don't say; what you say; how you say it)
 - Develop a compassionate heart
 - Live a clean life
4. Would the way you habitually live in these areas convince others that you have been transformed by the Word of God? Is it possible that you have been deceived by your religious beliefs?
5. What does the Bible say about God's heart for widows and orphans? List as many references as you can find. (See Dt. 10:18; Ps. 10:14; 68:5; 146:9 to get started)
6. What are current statistics on orphans in the world? What is adoption? How could adoption help with the problem of racism and ethnocentrism in our world? Have you ever considered foster care or adoption? If you are in circumstances that would make adoption difficult or impossible, would you consider helping another believer with the cost of adoption? What are some other ways you could minister to orphans (or children who don't have both a mother and a father)?
7. What are some needs that widows / widowers might have? What could you specifically do to meet the needs of widows / widowers in our church? In our community?
8. Make a list of people you know that are deceived by their religion into believing they are right with God. Pray for them every day this week and ask the Lord to give you an opportunity to share the true Gospel with them and how it has transformed your life.
9. If you haven't already done so, **memorize James 1:26-27** and quote it in the morning, at noon, and at night every day this week. If you have done this from the beginning of our study, you will complete the first chapter! Ask the LORD to take what you have studied, memorized, and meditated upon, and transform you from the inside out. Pray that **Romans 12:1-2** would become a noticeable and attractive reality in your life.

- I. Prescript (1:1)
- II. Be Joyful in Trials (1:2–15)
- III. Stop Being Misled (1:16–18)
- IV. Respond Properly to the Word of God (1:19–27)
 - A. Reception (19–21) – Listen to it!
 - B. Action (22–25) – Do it!
 - C. Transformation (26–27)

c. Transformation

1. Worthless Religion – putrid heart (26)
 - a. False Proclamation – “thinks himself to be religious”
 - b. No Transformation – “does not bridle his tongue but deceives his *own* heart”
 - c. Eternal Damnation – this man’s religion is worthless

c. Transformation

1. Worthless Religion – putrid heart (26)
2. Worthwhile Religion – pure heart (27)
 - a. God's Proclamation (27a)

“Pure and undefiled religion
in the sight of our God and Father is this”

c. Transformation

1. Worthless Religion – putrid heart (26)
2. Worthwhile Religion – pure heart (27)
 - a. God's Proclamation (27a)
 - b. Genuine Transformation (26-27)
 - 1) Controlled Tongue (26b) – bridle his tongue

c. Transformation

1. Worthless Religion – putrid heart (26)
2. Worthwhile Religion – pure heart (27)
 - a. God's Proclamation (27a)
 - b. Genuine Transformation (26-27)
 - 1) Controlled Tongue (26b)
 - 2) Compassionate Heart (27b) – to visit orphans and widows in their distress

Exodus 22:22 (NASB95) – You shall not afflict any **widow** or **orphan**.

Deuteronomy 10:17–18 (NASB95) – ¹⁷ For the Lord your God is the God of gods and the Lord of lords, the great, the mighty, and the awesome God who does not show partiality nor take a bribe. ¹⁸ He executes justice for the **orphan** and the **widow**, and shows His love for the alien by giving him food and clothing.

Deuteronomy 14:28-29 (NASB95) –²⁸ At the end of every third year you shall bring out all the tithe of your produce in that year, and shall deposit *it* in your town. ²⁹ The Levite, because he has no portion or inheritance among you, and the alien, the **orphan** and the **widow** who are in your town, shall come and eat and be satisfied, in order that the Lord your God may bless you in all the work of your hand which you do.

Deuteronomy 27:19 (NASB95) – ‘Cursed is he who distorts the justice due an **alien**, **orphan**, and **widow**.’ And all the people shall say, ‘**Amen**.’

Psalm 68:5 (NASB95) – A father of the **fatherless** and a judge for the **widows**, is God in His holy habitation.

Psalm 146:9 (NASB95) – The Lord protects the strangers; He supports the **fatherless** and the **widow**, but He thwarts the way of the wicked.

Proverbs 15:25 (NASB95) – The Lord will tear down the house of the proud, but He will establish the boundary of the **widow**.

Jeremiah 7:6-7 (NASB95) – ⁶ *if* you do not oppress the alien, the **orphan**, or the **widow**, and do not shed innocent blood in this place, nor walk after other gods to your own ruin, ⁷ then I will let you dwell in this place, in the land that I gave to your fathers forever and ever.

Jeremiah 22:13–17 (NASB95) – The LORD sent this message to King Jehoahaz, son of Josiah, who was not godly like his father:

¹³ “Woe to him who builds his house without righteousness and his upper rooms without justice, who uses his neighbor’s services without pay and does not give him his wages, ¹⁴ who says, ‘I will build myself a roomy house with spacious upper rooms, and cut out its windows, paneling *it* with cedar and painting *it* bright red.’ ¹⁵ Do you become a king because you are competing in cedar? Did not your father eat and drink and do justice and righteousness? Then it was well with him. ¹⁶ He pled the cause of the **afflicted and needy**; Then it was well. Is not that what it means to know Me?” declares the Lord. ¹⁷ “But your eyes and your heart are *intent* only upon your own dishonest gain, and on shedding innocent blood and on **practicing oppression and extortion.**”

Acts 6:1-6

Luke 6:32–36 (NASB95) – ³² “If you love those who love you, what credit is *that* to you? For even sinners love those who love them. ³³ If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is *that* to you? For even sinners do the same. ³⁴ If you lend to those from whom you expect to receive, what credit is *that* to you? Even sinners lend to sinners in order to receive back the same *amount*. ³⁵ But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High; for He Himself is kind to ungrateful and evil *men*. ³⁶ Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

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1 John 3:16–17 (NASB95)

¹⁶ We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and **we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.** ¹⁷ But whoever has the world's goods, and sees his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him?

c. Transformation

1. Worthless Religion – putrid heart (26)
2. Worthwhile Religion – pure heart (27)
 - a. God's Proclamation (27a)
 - b. Genuine Transformation (26-27)
 - 1) Controlled Tongue (26b)
 - 2) Compassionate Heart (27b)
 - 3) Clean Life (27c) – *and* to keep oneself unstained by the world

James 4:4 (NASB95) – You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

1 John 2:15–17 (NASB95) – ¹⁵ Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶ For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. ¹⁷ The world is passing away, and *also* its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever.

2 Timothy 2:22 (NASB95) – Now flee from youthful lusts and pursue righteousness, faith, love *and* peace, with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.

c. Transformation

1. Worthless Religion – putrid heart (26)
2. Worthwhile Religion – pure heart (27)
 - a. God's Proclamation (27a)
 - b. Genuine Transformation (26-27)
 - c. Eternal Salvation (27a) – This is pure and undefiled religion

Jeremiah 31:31–34 (NASB95) – ³¹ “Behold, days are coming,” declares the Lord, “when I will make a **new covenant** with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah, ³² not like the covenant which I made with their fathers in the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, although I was a husband to them,” declares the Lord. ³³ “But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days,” declares the Lord, “**I will put My law within them and on their heart I will write it;** and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. ³⁴ “They will not teach again, each man his neighbor and each man his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’ for **they will all know Me**, from the least of them to the greatest of them,” declares the Lord, “for I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more.”

Ezekiel 36:25–27 (NASB95) – ²⁵ “Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. ²⁶ “Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷ “I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances.

So What?

1. Controlled Tongue Test
2. Compassionate Heart Test
3. Clean Life Test