



## Pure and Undefined Religion

### James 1:26-27

August 16, 2026

Pastor Vaughn

1. The doer of the word will keep a tight reign over his tongue

*James 1:26 If anyone thinks himself to be religious, and yet does not bridle his tongue but deceives his [own] heart, this man's religion is worthless.*

*27 Pure and undefiled religion in the sight of [our] God and Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their distress, [and] to keep oneself unstained by the world.*

NASB

2. The doer of the word will concern himself with providing care for the needy and hurting

3. The doer of the word must continually strive to keep himself unstained by the world

# Application Questions

*These questions are provided for your further study and application of today's sermon. Thoughtfully writing out the answers to these questions will help to drive home the point of today's study. It is also helpful when you are able to discuss your answers with others. For more information about Koinonia Groups at Heritage Church that utilize these questions as the basis for their discussion, please see Pastor Vaughn or e-mail Vaughn@hcgj.org.*

1. What is the gospel, and how would you explain it to an unbelieving friend?
2. What happens when one believes in the gospel?
3. How would you define legalism?
4. Why is legalism such a danger to the believer?
5. In the message, Pastor Vaughn said that the tongue is a reliable gauge of the condition of the heart. Do you agree? Why or why not?
6. James will tell us in 3:8 that no person can tame the tongue. How then is it possible for a Christian to bring his tongue under control?
7. According to the message, why should believers be eager to care for the needy and the hurting?
8. What does it mean to "keep oneself unstained by the world?" What actions can the Christian take to heed this command?

*Here are some resources that may assist you in a deeper study of the truths presented in today's sermon. While Pastor Vaughn cannot endorse every concept presented in each book, he does believe these resources will be helpful in profitably thinking through today's topic.*

Blomberg, Craig L. and Miriam J. Kewell. **Zondervan Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament V 16**. Zondervan 2008.  
Hughes, Kent R. **James, Faith That Works**. Crossway, 1991.  
Lenski, Richard C.H., **The Interpretation to the Epistle to the Hebrews and the Epistle of James**. Augsburg Fortress, 1946, 2008.  
MacArthur, John. **The MacArthur New Testament Commentary: James**. Moody Publishers, 1998.  
Moo, Douglas J. **The Letter of James**. Intervarsity, 1985.  
Varner, William. **The Book of James, A New Perspective**. Kress, 2010.  
Zodhiates, Spiros. **The Work of Faith**. Eerdmans 1959.

**Streaming of both the audio and video of today's sermon is available on the Heritage website (HCGJ.org) and App (Heritage GJ). The App can also be found on YouTube, RokuTV, AppleTV, GoogleTV, FireTV, and CarPlay. Podcasts for Heritage Church can also be found on your favorite provider.**