



Part One: Genuine Religion

Religion means a lot of things to a lot of people. If we boiled religion down to its most pure and genuinely positive elements, what would we get? Jesus helps us to see this clearly – and the result might not be what you think!

Scripture: James 1:27 NLT

Bottom Line: Genuine religion is generous.

Discussion Questions

1. How would you finish the following sentence: Pure and genuine religion in the sight of God the Father means...
2. In James 1:27, how does James (the brother of Jesus) finish that sentence? What do you think this tells us about God's character? What does it say about our own religious expressions? In what ways does this challenge your view of how Christians ought to respond to the good news of Jesus?
3. What are some of the excuses that you might use to avoid having to practically take care of vulnerable people in our society? What are some ways that we can overcome those hurdles?
4. Read 1 Timothy 6:18. How does this verse help us to define what being rich is really about? Does this challenge your goals or practices when it comes to family, career and finances? Compare this verse with what our culture tells us about what it is to be rich. Which do you think is more satisfying? Why do you think it is so hard for many of us to pursue this kind of generosity?

Moving Forward

Paul encourages people to always be ready to share with others. What are some ways that you can get ready to share with those in needs? Do you have practices that have helped you do this? Are there ways that you can start to get ready as we move through the rest of this series?