

INSIDE OUT RELIGION

James 1:26-27

TREVOR MEERS

November 12, 2023

The questions below are designed to be used by Saylorville Church Community Groups as they meet during the week following the Sunday morning message at Saylorville. The intent is not for groups to answer every question, but for leaders to use the questions as a guide as they tailor the discussion to the unique needs of their group. The Sunday message and these questions can be found each week at www.saylorvillechurch.com/sermons.

WANT MORE CONTEXT AND COMMENTARY?

- Check out this free [Verse-by-Verse Bible Commentary](http://www.StudyLight.org), available through www.StudyLight.org.
- Watch an [overview video of the Book of James](http://www.BibleProject.com), available from www.BibleProject.com.

CONNECT WITH YOUR GROUP (10-15 MINUTES)

- What's your immediate reaction to the word, "religion"? What kind of images does the word bring to your mind? Would you consider yourself to be a religious person? Why or why not?

APPLY THE BIBLE (45-60 MINUTES)

- **Remember** what you talked about last time. Is there anything you need to **follow up** on this week?
- **Review** your Sermon Notes together. What is **one thing** that sticks out to you about what you learned?
- **Read** this week's passage together. In his message, **Pastor Trevor showed us three behaviors that demonstrate authentic religion.**

Three Signs Of Pure Religion

Pure Religion Controls Your Tongue (James 1:26)

- True religion changes the fuel that your heart is burning so that what comes out in our words is pure. Think about your words this past week - what did your speech reveal about what was in your heart?
- Talk about an example or two of when words encouraged you, built you up, or filled you. What about when words had the opposite effect?
- Who is someone in your life that needs to hear an encouraging word from you this week?

Pure Religion Cares For People On The Margins (James 1:27)

- James uses orphans and widows as examples of people who should be cared for by the church. How does Matthew 25:36-40 help us understand why this is so important to the Lord?
- "Agape" love doesn't care what it gets back in return. This is the kind of love that God has for us (1 John 4:8). Do you think it's possible for humans to love with agape love? Why or why not?
- As an individual, as a family, a Community Group, or as a church, what are some examples of ways we can better love people on the margins this month? Talk about several practical ideas.

Pure Religion Casts Off Worldly Influences (James 1:27)

- Think about your past interaction with "religion." How did your parents, your friends, or your church practice this idea of being "unstained by the world"?
- Pastor Trevor said, "The church's effectiveness in reaching the world is directly related to how different the church is from the world." What does this actually look like if we do it well?
- Be honest - what areas of your life are more prone to be influenced by the world than by the Lord?
- Little is big. What are some little steps you can take this week to be less like the world and more like Jesus?

Receive and Respond: What will I do because of what I just heard?

PRAY TOGETHER (5-15 MINUTES)

- Pray that your group would practice "true religion" this week.

