

Pure Religion Includes Visiting Needy Children
(James 1:27)

Introduction:

1. In James 1:26-27 a contrast is made between 2 kinds of religion.
 - a. "Vain" religion is described in vs.26.
 - b. "Pure and undefiled" religion is described in vs.27.
2. We are especially interested in pure and undefiled religion that consists of:
 - a. visiting the fatherless and widows in their affliction
 - b. remaining unspotted from the world.
3. In our lesson we are concentrating on the fact that "pure religion includes visiting needy children."

Discussion:

- I. LET US DEFINE "VISIT"
 - A. The visiting under consideration is "looking after someone to supply a need."
 - B. Illustrations:
 1. (Ruth 1:6) In Moab, Naomi heard *"how that the Lord had visited his people in giving them bread."*
 2. (Matthew 25:36) Jesus said, *"I was sick, and ye visited me."*
 - C. Pure religion includes looking after needy children to supply their needs.
- II. LET US DETERMINE HOW GOD AND CHRIST FEEL ABOUT CHILDREN
 - A. The Old Testament shows how God is concerned about children.
 1. (Psalm 68:5) He is *"a father of the fatherless."*
 2. Consequently, in Isaiah 1:17 He commanded His people to *"judge the fatherless."*
 - B. The New Testament shows how Christ is concerned about children.
 1. (Mark 10:13-16) Jesus held little children and blessed them.
 2. Consequently, His instructions for His people are found in James 1:27.
 - C. When we are aware of how God and Christ feel about children, we can better understand why pure and undefiled religion includes visiting needy children.
- III. LET US EXAMINE ADDITIONAL PASSAGES THAT RELATE TO CARING FOR NEEDY CHILDREN
 - A. The 2nd commandment is to love your neighbor as yourself (Matthew 22:39).
 1. In the parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10), Jesus showed how a neighbor is someone in need.
 2. Love that pleases God is active (1 John 3:17-19).
 - B. The Bible teaches us to *"do good unto all men"* (Galatians 6:9-10).
 - C. Christians have been created in Christ *"unto good works,"* and we are to *"walk in them"* (Ephesians 2:10).
 - D. Doing good works is emphasized in Titus 2:11-14; 3:8, 14.
 - E. God is pleased when His people *"do good"* (Hebrews 13:16).
 - F. The Bible warns against having an inactive faith (James 2:14-17).

Conclusion:

1. We have seen that "pure and undefiled religion includes visiting needy children."
2. Let us remember this principle as we take advantage of the opportunity that we have been given.