

The Way We Could Be
Being Religious with Purity
James 1:26-27 (page 1199)

Question: Are we faking it? Is our religion (our actions in worship) merely outward efforts meant to convince others that we are someone we are not? Or does our standing, sitting, singing... reflect an inward reality?

I. A Telling Disobedience (vs. 26)
~ failing to bridle our tongue

II. A Telling Obedience (vs. 27)

- A) Care for the powerless (widows and orphans)
- B) Keeping ourselves from being stained by the world

Points to Ponder: If James' reference to the "world" refers to the fallen world system that runs contrary to the ways of God, then how has the assumptions and values of this "world" significantly shaped us? Take a moment to list the things in our life that would stand counter to the thinking of those who are not followers of Jesus. That is to ask: where is the evidence that we are truly are counter-cultural?

A Note to Parents: Please know that the children and youth who leave the service during the sermon are looking at the same passage we are considering. We hope that you will initiate a conversation with them about this portion of God's Word.

Next Week: Next week we will continue our sermon series entitled: *The Way We Could Be* by looking at **James 2:1-13 Welcoming Others with Love.**

