

D. The Blessed Hearer And Doer Applies The Word So That It Changes His Conduct And His Character In The Sight Of God! (Vs 27)

In contrast to the vain religion of the man in *verse 26*, James gives two practical examples here in *verse 27* of a person who applies God's Word.

These two examples represent "*pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father.*" James says that to contrast it with **the outward religion of the man who is doing it to be noticed by other men.**

He calls God "**Father**" here because of the reference to orphans and widows. In Psalm 68:5, God is called "*a father of the fatherless and a judge of the widows.*" He has a special concern for the helpless who cannot provide for themselves.

1. When We Apply The Word, It Results In Selfless Conduct In The Sight Of God!

The word "**visit**" means more than just dropping in for a social call, although it would include that.

It comes from the same word that is translated "**overseer,**" describing the work of elders. It means "**to look out for, care for, and be concerned about.**"

To show this concern for orphans and widows requires that a person **take his focus off of himself and his needs and think about others and their needs.** Usually, there is no payback when you care for orphans and widows. Back in that society, they were poor and not able to work.

What motivates you to care for them is, you know they have needs and you apply the golden rule (how you would want to be treated if you were in their situation)!

You do it to please God, who sent His Son so that you could be adopted into His family. **The point is that when God's Word takes root in our hearts, it shifts our focus from self to others.**

2. When We Apply The Word, It Results In Separated Character In The Sight Of God!

James says that pure and undefiled religion is to keep oneself "**unspotted by the world.**"

The world refers to the evil system under Satan's domain that is opposed to God. It is dirty and defiling.

As God's people, we are to be in the world, but not of the world (John 17:15-19).

The answer is not to isolate ourselves in order to keep from being tainted by this evil world.

But instead of embracing the world's goals, priorities, and temporal values, we should be actively involved in the things which please God!

We are to go into the world and befriend sinners, as the Jesus did, and yet not be stained by their evil thinking and evil deeds.

Conclusion

We **are not** to be like the long time member of the Church who shook hands with the pastor after the service one Sunday morning. "*That was a wonderful sermon...just wonderful! Everything you said applies to someone I know.*"

James doesn't want us applying the Word to others! He doesn't want us to just underlining or highlight all the commands in the Bible! He wants us to **apply the Word to ourselves! Do you want God's blessing in your life? Then, don't be a forgetful hearer of the Word. Become an effectual doer and you will be blessed by God!**