



Faith Alive!

Good Worship Services?

James 1:26-27

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Key Question: What makes 'good worship' good?

'religious/religion'

- Normal word = *inner qualities of godliness, spirituality*
- Unusual word here = *outward religious activities that constitute public worship*

In other words: the things we do as we gather on Sundays for worship

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'religious/religion'

- Normal word = *inner qualities of godliness, spirituality*
- Unusual word here = *outward religious activities that constitute public worship*
- 'Good worship' that doesn't lead to the following is not good worship:
 - Reining in your tongue
 - Helping the most helpless
 - Keeping your life morally clean
- 'pure and faultless before God'
 - All that really matters is how the 'audience of One' evaluates our worship!

Good Worship Services? - James 1:26-27

Key Question: What makes 'good worship' good?

• Reining In Your Tongue

Worship that doesn't lead you to control your tongue is not good worship

- A true test of a man's religion is not his ability to speak, but his ability to bridle his tongue.
- The tongue is not the only indicator of true spirituality, but it is one of the most reliable.
- The tongue reveals what's really going on inside. What comes out of your mouth when you're under stress?

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Key Question: What makes 'good worship' good?

- **Reining In Your Tongue**
- **Helping The Most Helpless**

Worship that doesn't lead you to practically help the helpless is not good worship

- Worship is not what you do in here, but what you do out there...
- The true test of good worship is not good music, but dirty hands...
- What counts is not the church service, but the church serving...

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- Repeatedly the OT & NT calls us to help the weak and helpless...

Ps 68:4,5

Deut 10:18-19

Zechariah 7:6-10

Micah 6:6-8

I John 3:17,18

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Worship that doesn't lead you to practically help the helpless is not good worship

- Repeatedly the OT & NT calls us to help the weak and helpless...
- Perhaps the most helpless: the unborn
- Practical ways to help locally...

Feed My Starving Children

Lazarus House

Riverwoods Christian Center

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Key Question: What makes 'good worship' good?

- **Reining In Your Tongue**
- **Helping The Most Helpless**
- **Keeping Your Life Morally Clean**

Worship that doesn't lead you to be morally different from those around you is not good worship

- Unspotted, unstained by the world
...can't walk on a muddy path without getting muddy.
- 'world' = the entire system of thinking and values of those who reject and oppose God
- We are to be different: Rom 12:1; Phil 2:15,16
- See I Jn 2:15-16; Jn 17:15-19

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Concluding thought:

Who is responsible for 'good worship'?
The worshipper him/herself!

- In all of this we are active, not passive
- All of these activities are to be on-going, habitual