

Sermon Title: **“ACCEPTABLE RELIGION”**

James 1:26-27

- Professing Jesus as Lord, with our mouths, but NOT humbly _____ and _____ ourselves to His Lordship is crazy
- If you think you’re religious, but live with an _____, your religion is worthless
- “Religious” = one who _____ God and _____ to worship Him
- In this passage, James gives 3 qualities that should be visible in the lives of ALL authentic followers of Jesus Christ

I. WHAT WE _____ MATTERS

- “Bridle” = what the person on horseback uses to _____, _____ and _____ the horse
- If our speech is NOT guarded (under _____ control), then it indicates a concerning _____
- _____ of our communication needs to be under control ... (if we’re NOT controlling our tongues, we are _____ ourselves)

II. HOW WE _____ LOVE THOSE WHO ARE _____

- True, _____, authentic religion (based on Christ) is one that cares for _____
- Followers of Christ went out of their way to NOT just meet the needs of _____ vulnerable and needy, they actually sought to actively meet the needs of _____ vulnerable and needy
- “Visit” = move to; step toward; to _____ with
- This verse is saying believers need to _____ and get involved with those who are vulnerable and needy

III. HOW DO WE _____ WHILE WE MINISTER TO OTHERS

- Holiness (or _____ from the world) is required as we are sent out into the world to share _____