

James Series

James 1: 26 – 27
Solid Rock Church
Pastor Elliott Anderson





If – Then Statements

1. Hypothesis (the "if" part), that leads to the...
2. Conclusion (the "then" part).

*“**If** I don’t get to sleep soon, **then** I’ll be tired tomorrow.”*

“If-Then” are used to express a cause-and-effect relationship or a hypothetical situation which has conditional results.

If – Then Statements in Behavior Goals

1. The "**if**" is a positively planned condition
"If I get to sleep soon ..."
2. The "**then**", creates the desired response
"Then I'll go to the gym to work out in the morning."

An identified trigger (sleep) for a desired action (workout)

“If Anyone” Conditional Faith Statements in the NT

Matthew 24:23, Then **if anyone** says to you, 'Look, here is the Christ!' or 'There he is!' do not believe it.

2nd Corinthians 5: 17, **if anyone** is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!

2nd John 1: 10, **if anyone** comes to you and does not bring this doctrine, do not receive him into the house.

“If Anyone” Statements in James

There are at least **8 “If anyone”** statements in James

They are behavioral faith clauses with required responses

1: 5, If anyone lacks wisdom....then ask God

1: 23, If anyone is a hearer of the word...then be a doer

1: 26, If anyone thinks himself to be religious...
then control your tongue!

1: 26, “If – Then” 2X

If you think you are religious....**then** control your tongue....

If you are deceived...
then your faith is useless!



The Word “Religion” in the NT

Only used 5X in the New Testament

3X “religion” is used in **James 1: 26 – 27**

As an adjective “religion/religious” is only used in **1: 26**

The best translation for “**religion**” in the Greek means...
outward practice of serving God – worship in action

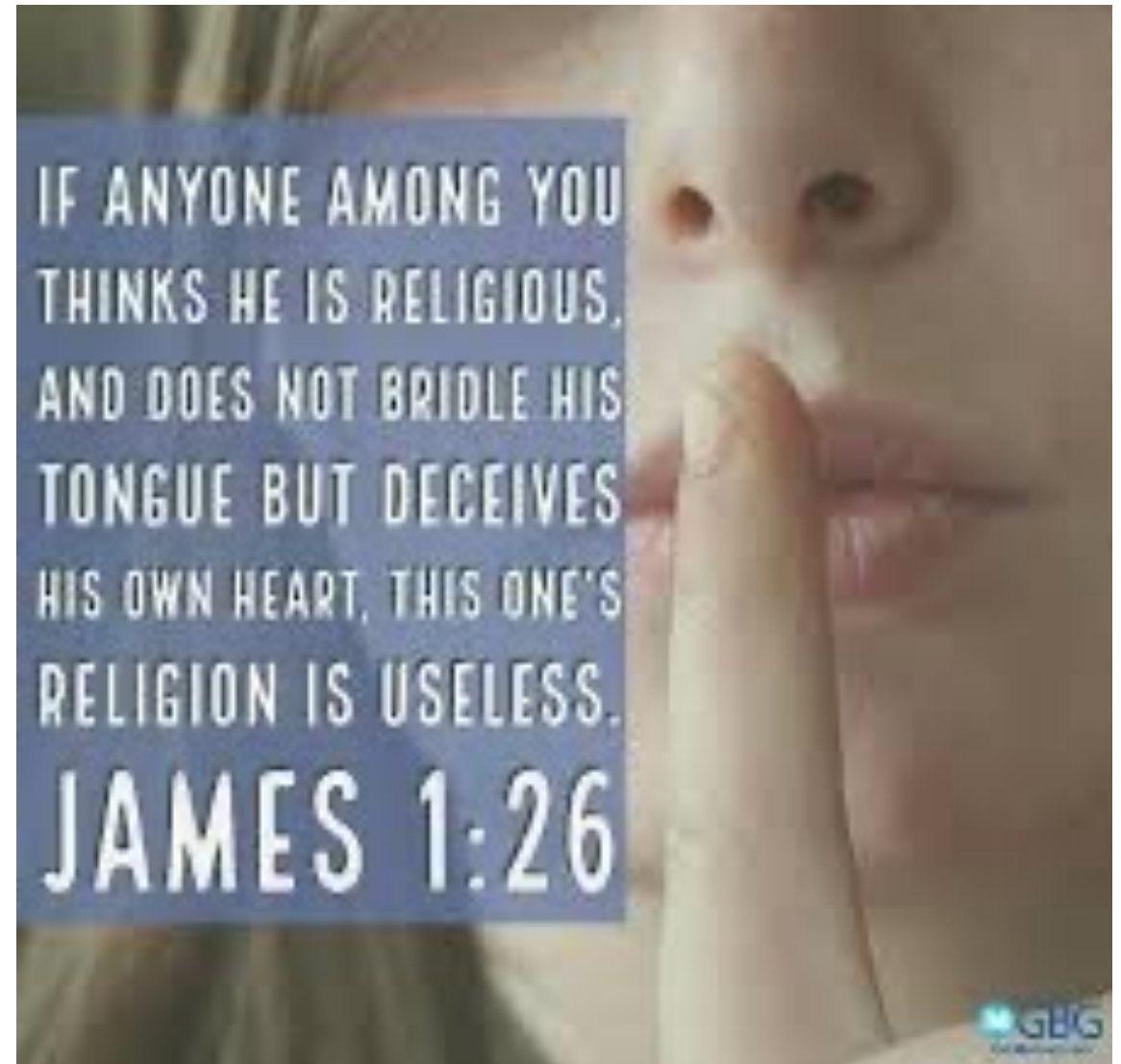
“When – Don’t” Warnings by Jesus

Matthew 6: 1, Beware of **practicing your religion** before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven.

6: 2 – 3, When you give to the needy... **“When – Don’t” Warning**
no trumpet should be sounded for your praise
don’t let your left hand know what your right hand is doing

Religion: Faith Condition

Must include a
controlled tongue!





Control The Tongue

A Major Theme of James and Faith

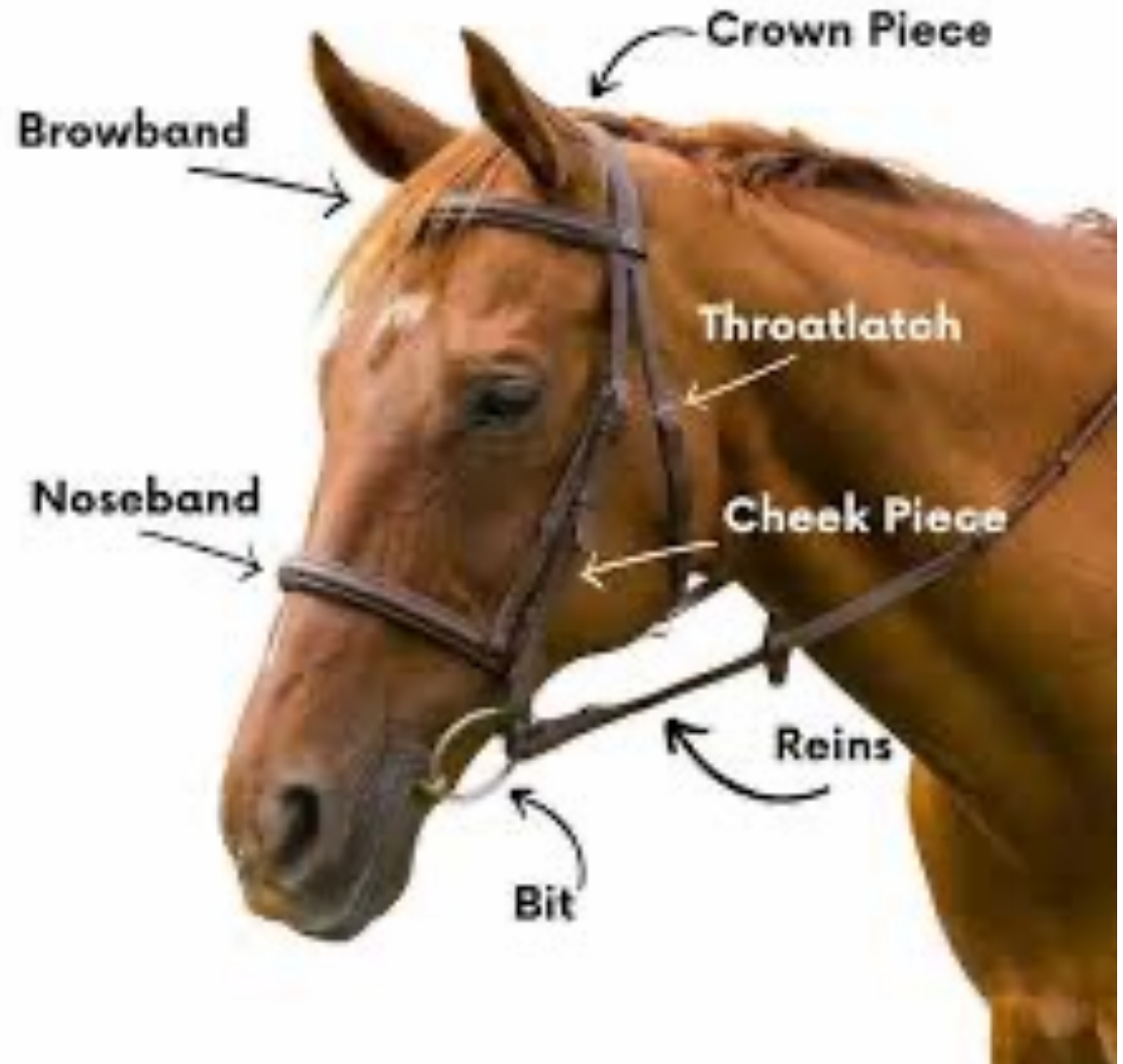
James uses the control of our tongue as a metaphor for our spiritual maturity faith representation 7X!

He commands believers to tame the tongue through submission to God and reliance on the Holy Spirit.

The tongue is like an untamed, unruly horse that needs a bit and a bridle to be under control.

Bridling our Tongue

Preparation and Protection



Scripture for Control of Our Mouth/Tongue

Proverbs 21: 23, He who guards his **mouth and his tongue**, guards his soul from troubles.

Matt 12: 34...out of the abundance of the **heart the mouth** speaks.

Colossians 4: 6, Let **your speech** always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you know how to respond to each person.

What is Pure Religion?

Religion that is pure and undefiled before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.

– James 1:27





Pure and Undeclared Religion

Pure: free from anything that soils; to be clean

Undeclared: unstained, unpolluted, unsoiled

Faith with controlled tongues and outward action

Pure and Undeiled before God and The Father

*“Religious acts may impress
man, but true religion must hold
up in the presence of God.”*

Vernon Doerksen

God = His authority and power

Father = His shepherd heart



Pure Religion: Faith in Action

Visit Orphans and Widows

Religion that is pure and undefiled before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.

– James 1:27



Visit = *Episkeptomai* in the Greek

To Visit: to inspect, oversee,
and actively care for orphan
and widow's needs



Jesus: *Episkeptomai* in Matthew 25

36, I was naked, and you clothed me, I was sick, and you *visited* me, I was in prison, and you came to me.

43, I was a stranger, and you didn't welcome me, naked and you didn't clothe me, sick and in prison and you didn't *visit* me.

Jesus: Let the Children Come to Me

Matthew 10: 13 – 15, People were bringing **little children** to Jesus for him to place his hands on them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to the disciples, “**Let the little children** come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.

Mark 9:37, Whoever receives **one child** like this, in my name, receives Me.

Caring for Orphans + Widows - OT

Exodus 22: 22, You shall not mistreat any **widow or fatherless** child.

Deuteronomy 14 + 24: Gleaning rights for **orphans and widows**

Psalms 82: 3, Give justice to the **weak and the fatherless**; maintain the right of the afflicted and the destitute.

Caring for Widows - NT

Acts 6: 1, Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their **widows** were being neglected in the daily distribution.

1st Timothy 5: 3, Honor **widows** who are truly widows.

Pure Faith: Keep Unstained from the World

Religion that is pure and undefiled before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.

– James 1:27



The World in the NT

The world in the New Testament means society without God as Lord, Savior and Sovereign King.

Satan is the prince of the world (**John 14: 30**)

Those without a relationship with God are the children of the world. (**Luke 16:8**)



Pure Faith: In the World - not of the World!

John 17: 15, I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one, **They are not of the world just as I am not of the world.**

Sanctify them in truth; your Word is truth. As you sent me into the world, so **I have sent them into the world.**

Stained by the World?

James 4: 4, You adulterous people! Do you not know that **friendship with the world** is enmity (opposition) with God.

1st John 2: 15 – 17, **Do not love the world** or the things of the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world – the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life – is not from the Father but is from the world.

Flesh – Lust – Pride of the World

Flesh desires things contrary to the Word of God and the Spirit.

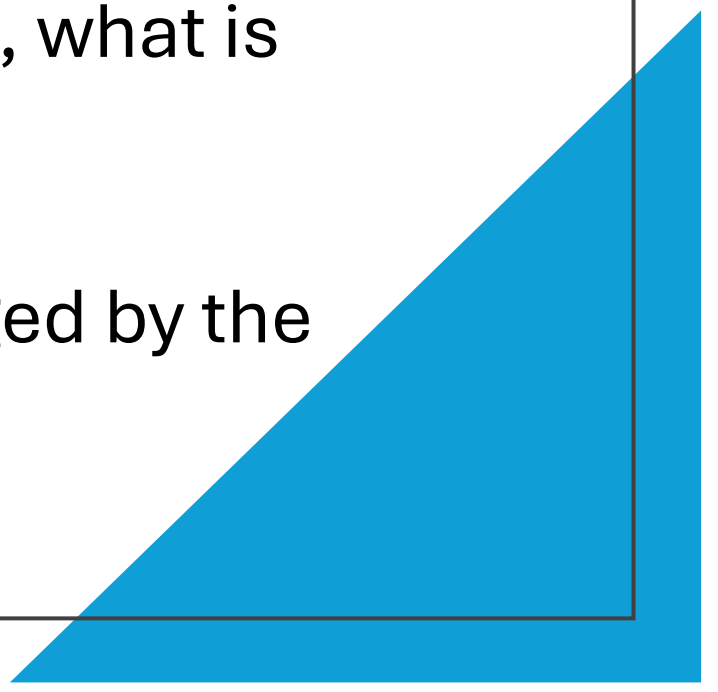
Lust desires appetites and passions out of God's timing / place

Pride is our self-centered glorification in worldly things
knowledge, money, status, fame, importance

Stain of the World: Conforms and Condemn Us

Romans 12: 2, Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good, acceptable, and perfect.

1st Corinthians 11: 32, But when we were judged by the Lord, we are disciplined so that we may not be **condemned along with the world**.



James 1:26-27

²⁶ If anyone among you thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one's religion *is* useless. ²⁷

Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, *and* to keep oneself unspotted from the world.



James 1: 26 – 27: Pure Faith

If Anyone Follows Jesus, Then...

We surrender / submit our heart and our tongues to God

We live in the world, but not of the world

We always care for the orphans, widows, afflicted

We stay in the Word / Truth aware of the World / Lies
