

“Pure and Undeclared Religion”

“Pure and undefiled Religion”

- **Terms: James 1:27**
 - **“Pure”** = cleansed, chaste (proper)
 - **“religion”** = the external aspect of one’s service to God (in contrast to unreal and deceptive, v.26), being motivated by godliness and love
 - **“visit”** = to inspect, care for
 - **“affliction”** = burdens, trials
 - **“unspotted”** = without blemish, sin

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- **Does this phrase teach that churches are to physically help the needy of the world?**
 - **James 1:19, 22-27, 2:1-4** – Context is individuals, not churches
 - **James 1:27** – God is in the details – “*widows and orphans*”; What about the “spirit of the command”?
 - This is the foundation of church-sponsored schools, gymnasiums, fellowship halls, etc.

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- **Is it true that whatever an individual can do a church can do also? (aka, “the spirit of the command”?)**
 - **I Tim. 5:16** – There are many things that individuals have the freedom to do that God has not given (via command, approved example, or necessary inference) the church authority to do

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- **Conclusion:**
 - **II Thess. 3:10** – There are those who are truly in need, but there are a large number who simply try to take advantage of the generosity and care of others
 - We are to be “good stewards” (I Pet. 4:10) of what we have been blessed with as individuals, but we have the freedom to assist those of the world who are truly in need, and we should as we are able

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- **Conclusion:**

- **God has specified, by way of command, approved example, and necessary inference, how churches can use their funds...they are to be used for the purpose of spiritual teaching and spiritual matters as God has given authority - See [John 6:26](#)**