


THREE TESTS OF TRUE CHRISTIANITY DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

JAMES 1:26-27

- 1 **In James 1:26-27, we find three characteristics of true Christians.** Here and in other places in the Bible, we find a definition of what true Christians look like. The world around us also tries to define Christianity. What are some of the ways it defines what a Christian is like?

 *Where do you think those qualities came from?*

 *Are those good or bad ways to define Christians?*

- 2 **Many people reduce Christianity to the two qualities mentioned in James 1:27.** They believe that if someone simply does good to those who are in need and tries to be holy they will find salvation. Are they right or wrong?


 *What would you say to someone who was convinced of that belief?*

 *How would you use James 1 in your answer? What other passages would be helpful to mention?*

- 3 **James 1:26-27 seems to be introducing three arbitrary qualities of the Christian life, but James is actually making a central point to his entire argument in the book.** These points are not random. In fact, he has already mentioned them in light of God the Father, and he will also use them as a three part agenda for the rest of his explanation of Faith that Works throughout the book.

 *Look for the three concepts of word, care and holiness highlighted in James 1:26-27 in James 1:18. How does James point out those qualities in God the Father?*

 *How does James develop these three major topics in the rest of the book? Perhaps you could use the section headings in a study Bible for help.*

 *What do you think James is saying by making this point?*

 *How are you encouraged by the truth that God is transforming you into His likeness?*

- 4 **In James 1:26, James tells us that true Christians bridle their tongues.** Look up the following verses and note how they reinforce what James says about controlling our speech: Proverbs 10:19 Proverbs 17:27 Psalm 39:1 Psalm 141:3

