

The background is black with several thick, bright orange lines that curve and overlap, creating a dynamic, abstract pattern. The lines are of varying thickness and form partial circles and arcs.

Getting Real

James 1:27

Jas 1:27 ESV

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

a:

**defiled and impure
religion**

defiled and impure religion

Mat 23:4 ESV

They tie up heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on people's shoulders, but they themselves are not willing to move them with their finger.

defiled and impure religion

characterized by:

- not **doing** the Word (Mat 23:4)
- **burdening** people (Mat 23:4)
- driven by the **fear** (recognition) **of man** (Mat 23:5-12)
- **major on the minors**, not on the majors (Mat 23:23)
- **human effort/tradition** vs God's grace (Mat 23:16-35)

defiled and impure religion

Luk 12:1-3 ESV

"Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy. (2) Nothing is covered up that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known.

defiled and impure religion

Luk 12:1-3 ESV

(3) Therefore whatever you have said in the dark shall be heard in the light, and what you have whispered in private rooms shall be proclaimed on the housetops.

b:

**reach out to the
oppressed**

reach out to the oppressed

Isa 58:6-12 ESV

"Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? (7) Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover him, and not to hide yourself from your own flesh?"

reach out to the oppressed

(8) Then shall your light break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up speedily; your righteousness shall go before you; the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.

reach out to the oppressed

(9) Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry, and he will say, 'Here I am.' If you take away the yoke from your midst, the pointing of the finger, and speaking wickedness, (10) if you pour yourself out for the hungry and satisfy the desire of the afflicted, then shall your light rise in the darkness and your gloom be as the noonday.

reach out to the oppressed

(11) And the LORD will guide you continually and satisfy your desire in scorched places and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters do not fail.

(12) And your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to dwell in.

C:

**unspotted from
the World**

- Do I see God as unloving, harsh and judgmental?
- Do I see God as distanced and detached?
- Do I think that I cant have fellowship with God or hear His voice?
- Do I have hardness of heart or dullness toward the things of God?

- Do I hate spiritual correction?
- Do I avoid repentance from sin through godly sorrow?
- Do I love the World and compromise with truth?

unspotted from the World

Acts 3:19-20 ESV

¹⁹ Repent therefore, and turn again, that your sins may be blotted out, ²⁰ that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord

unspotted from the World

“Now it’s time to change your ways! Turn to face God so he can wipe away your sins, pour out showers of blessing to refresh you
The Message (Ac 3:19).