

## James | True Religion 3/03/2024

## Reflect + Discuss

- What comes to mind when you hear the word religion? Does it have a positive or negative connotation in your mind? Is it mostly external or internal?
- Read James 1:13-16. How does James view the development of sin? Where does it come from? In what ways is that similar or different to the ways that you think about or experience temptation and sin?
- Read James 1:17-21. From James' perspective, how can we be transformed and get out of cycles of sin? Does this ring true with your experiences? Which parts of this passage challenge you or make you think?
- Read James 1:22-27. Are there any parts of this passage that challenge you or make you think? In your own words what is true religion?
- Consider people you know who display their faith with their actions. What do they do that lets you know they follow Jesus? How has that impacted your own life or faith? Likewise, how do people know where your faith stands? Do your actions line up with your beliefs?
- How can we be doers of the word and encourage each other to be doers as well? What makes this hard? What makes it easier? What do you think is at stake if Jesus followers fail to do this? What is possible if Jesus followers succeed in this?

## Pray

- Pray that we would be a church filled with people who do not merely hear the world, but also do it. Spend some time reflecting on the ways that you or we as a community fall short of being doers of the word. Ask that the Holy Spirit would help us see ourselves rightly and change course when we need to.

## **Next Steps**

- Check out the <u>resources page</u> for links to several Bible reading plans and other helpful tools. Explore other opportunities for growth and transformation by checking out <u>courses</u>.