

“If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain. Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this: To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.” James 1:26-27 KJV



Obedying God's Word keeps you “*unspotted from the world.*” The human meaning of the word “*religion,*” is at best vague and relegated to the user's context and most use it in a derogatory fashion. To many, “*religion*” epitomizes all they hate about faith. In most minds faith and religion are synonymous. For them, faith and religion are just a set of archaic rules that forbid the pleasures which they are determined to have at any cost. They are the slaves of their own desires, who “*are the enemies of the cross of Christ: Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things.*” Faith is quite simply your own beliefs. Some believe lies foisted upon them by wicked men and pridefully think they can, by their own efforts, earn a place in heaven. That, somehow, their deeds will give them bargaining power with God who sacrificed His own flesh on Calvary for their sins! It's amazing how many so-called religious folks can't bridle their tongue. Many “*faith leaders*” spew eloquent mountains of knowledge they do not do themselves; indulging their lusts with the wealth of others while calling on followers to be sacrificial givers! Jesus said of these: “*Woe unto you...hypocrites! For ye shut up the Kingdom of Heaven against men: for ye neither go in yourselves, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in! Woe unto you! For ye devour widows' houses, and for a pretense make long prayer: therefore ye shall receive the greater damnation. Woe unto you!*” If trust your own works or spurn Truth out of a lust for pleasure, you will burn! “*For by grace are saved; THROUGH FAITH: And that, NOT OF YOURSELVES; it is the Gift of God: Faith cometh by...the Word of God. Not of works lest any man should boast!*” It is “*not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us.*” Religion is men's “*doing:*” Faith is God's “*doing!*” “*Whatsoever is not of faith IS SIN!*” Only faith can save a man!

Unspotted from a world of sin,
Can only come from faith within,
Engrafted there by God's own Word,
A “*knowing*” trust in Christ the Lord! -CGP

You can try to keep yourself “*unspotted from the world*” by being religious without God's Word and you will surely fail! God's Word is the power of Conquerors given to those who bring nothing to God but a humble plea for mercy and forgiveness! “*As many as received Him (believed and obeyed God's Word); to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name.*” Paul wrote, “*For I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ: for IT is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth.*” If you believe you will do – Deeds are the evidence of faith. If you don't obey God's Word, you have no faith: “*Without faith it is IMPOSSIBLE to please God!*” There are a lot of religious people in hell! You can be religious without God, or you can be a conqueror with God!

“Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.” Romans 8:37, 1 John 5:4 KJV