

²⁶If anyone thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his heart, this person's religion is worthless. ²⁷Religion 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. —James 1:26-27 ESV

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“If anything is obvious from Scripture, it is that there is a true faith, there is a true relationship with God, there is a genuine salvation, there is a right way to come to know God, there is a right way to be redeemed. And if that is true, it is a corollary to that that Satan, the enemy of God, will do everything in his power to counterfeit that right way, that genuine path, that true salvation.”

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“One of the foremost if not the foremost strategy of Satan in the world is to counterfeit salvation, is to produce a non-saving faith... Around the world all of the false religions spawned by the enemy are designed to give people a false sense of security in religion... Satan's ploy is to attempt to make people think they are right with God when they are not.”

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“I do not believe that Satan wants people to hate God, to run from God, there are some people who do that. Satan wants people to come to the wrong god in the wrong way and feel secure when they shouldn't. He wants them to think they have solved the issue of religion...”

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“And they will be among those who say, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Thy name and cast out demons and done many wonderful works?’ And then will He profess to them, ‘Depart from Me, I never knew you, you workers of iniquity.’”
—John MacArthur

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“The human race in the course of time has taken the liberty of softening and softening Christianity until at last we have contrived to make it exactly opposite of what it is in the New Testament.”
—Soren Kierkegaard

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Is Your Religion Real?
Stick Out Your Tongue
Any sign of verbal bridling?

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Matthew 15:10-12, 15-20

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The good person out of the
 good treasure of his heart
 produces good, and the evil
 person out of his evil treasure
 produces evil, for out of the
 abundance of the heart his
 mouth speaks. —Luke 6:45 ESV

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“The test of reality with God is not a
 man’s ability to speak his mind, but to
 bridle his tongue.” —George Sweeting

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Is Your Religion Real?
Open Your Hand
Any reflection of missional living?

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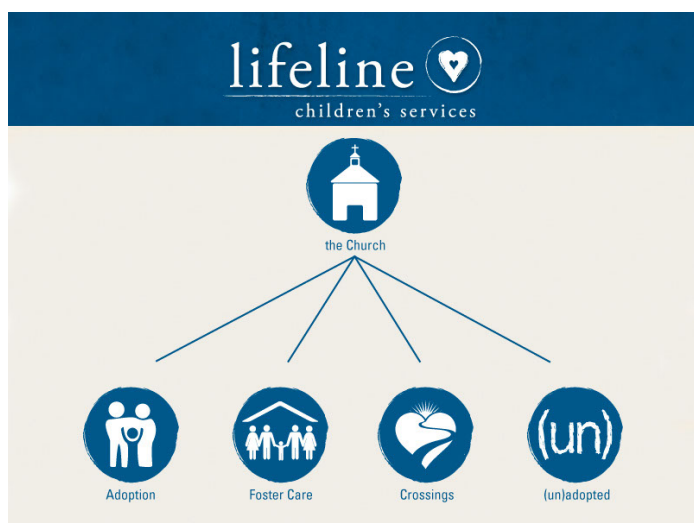
⁵Father of the fatherless and protector of widows is God in His holy habitation. ⁶God settles the solitary in a home; He leads out the prisoners to prosperity, but the rebellious dwell in a parched land.

—Psalm 68:5-6 ESV

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“Disengagement is convenient; involvement is costly.”

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Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need.

—Ephesians 4:28 ESV

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“A religion that gives nothing, costs nothing and suffers nothing is worth nothing.” —Martin Luther

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Is Your Religion Real?

Look at Your Feet

Do you pursue personal purity?

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“the world”

John 14:30 Ruled by Satan

1 John 2:16 Devoid of God

1 John 4:5-6 United in Error

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¹⁷And if you call on Him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile, ¹⁸knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, ¹⁹but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a **lamb without blemish or spot.**

—1 Peter 1:17-19 ESV

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“All throughout history men have tried to make ritual and liturgy a substitute for sacrifice and service. They have made religion splendid within the church at the expense of neglecting it outside the church.”

—William Barclay

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