

Text: James 1:27b

Theme: You must keep yourself unstained from the World.

### **Introduction:**

Stains are relatable because we've all had to deal with them. Here in v. 27, James gives a two-point rubric for those who wish to practice a pure and undefiled religion. Helping the helpless is characteristic of God. (Psalm 68:5; Psalm 146:9; Deuteronomy 10:18; Acts 4:34–35; 1 Timothy 5:3. See also Deut. 14:29; Ezek. 22:7; Acts 6:1–6). Warding off worldliness will be the focus of this message. The Greek word “kosmos” means “the system of human existence in its many aspects, the world, and everything that belongs to it, appears as that which is hostile to God, i.e. lost in sin, wholly at odds w. anything divine, ruined and depraved.”<sup>1</sup>

## **As a Christian, you must keep yourself unstained from the World.**

### **I. The World's Stain Contrasts the Father 1 John 2:15-17**

James 4:4

#### **A. The Father Shines with Holiness**

1 Peter 1:15–16; Leviticus 11:44–45; Leviticus 19:2; 1 Thessalonians 4:7

Holiness means to be set apart and absolutely pure. “God’s holiness is His fundamental attribute...which governs the other attributes of God’s goodness (or, His moral attributes).<sup>2</sup>

Holiness is “the crowning glory of the divine character”<sup>3</sup>

#### **B. The World is Stained with Corruption**

See 1 John 2:15-17. These three marks of the world’s corruption are seen in Matthew 4:1-11 in the Temptation of Christ and Genesis 3:1-6 in the Temptation of Adam and Eve.

##### **1. The World's Corruption is Marked by Carnal Lusts**

##### **2. The World's Corruption is Marked by Conspicuous Lusts**

##### **3. The World's Corruption is Marked by Conceited Lusts**

Beware of taking comforts over Christlikeness, appearances over empathy, and self-congratulations over self-examination. Our LORD shines in holiness while the world is stained with corruption.

### **II. The World's Stain Changes Thinking Romans 12:1-2**

#### **A. The World's Stain Changes Thinking by Marring the Mind**

Allowing yourself to be influenced by things of this world will affect your worldview.

Colossians 2:8

#### **B. The World's Stain Changes Thinking by Misleading the Will**

Allowing yourself to be influenced by things of this world will affect your desires.

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<sup>1</sup>William Arndt et al., *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000), 562.

<sup>2</sup>Rolland McCune, *A Systematic Theology of Biblical Christianity: Prolegomena and the Doctrines of Scripture, God, and Angels*, vol. 1 (Allen Park, MI: Detroit Baptist Theological Seminary, 2009), 249.

<sup>3</sup>Robert Lewis Dabney, *Lectures in Systematic Theology*, (Zondervan Publishing House, 1972), 151.

### **C. The World's Stain Changes Thinking by Modifying the Standard**

Allowing yourself to be influenced by things of this world will affect your convictions.

2 Peter 1:3–11

## **III. The World's Stain Corrupts Lives**

**James 3:6**

### **A. The World's Stain Corrupts Your Personal Life**

Ephesians 2:1–8; John 15:19; John 17:14; 2 Peter 2:18–22; 1 Thessalonians 5:22

See the 2023 Wall Street Journal article.<sup>4</sup>

### **B. The World's Stain Corrupts Your Family Life**

### **C. The World's Stain Corrupts Your Church Life**

Ephesians 5:25–30; 2 Corinthians 6:14–7:1

### **Conclusion:**

Little boys who don't mind stains and in fact don't see them anymore.

**As a Christian, you must keep yourself unstained from the World.**

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<sup>4</sup>Jeff Horwitz and Katherine Blunt, "Instagram's Algorithm Delivers Toxic Video Mix to Adults Who Follow Children," (accessed Dec. 7, 2025), <https://www.wsj.com/tech/meta-instagram-video-algorithm-children-adult-sexual-content-72874155>