

## The Power of ONE

### Loving Orphans and Widows

**Do for one, what you wish you could do for everyone.**

James 1:22-27 (New Living Translation) - Don't just listen to God's word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves. <sup>23</sup> For if you listen to the word and don't obey, it is like glancing at your face in a mirror. <sup>24</sup> You see yourself, walk away, and forget what you look like. <sup>25</sup> But if you look carefully into the perfect law that sets you free, and if you do what it says and don't forget what you heard, then God will bless you for doing it.

<sup>26</sup> If you claim to be religious but don't control your tongue, you are fooling yourself, and your religion is worthless. <sup>27</sup> Pure and genuine religion in the sight of God the Father means caring for orphans and widows in their distress and refusing to let the world corrupt you.

John 13:35 – Jesus said, “Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.”

**The genuineness of a person's religion is not determined by our standards but by God's standards.**

Psalms 82:3-4 - Defend the weak and the fatherless; uphold the cause of the poor and the oppressed. <sup>4</sup> Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked.

Psalms 68:4-5 - Sing praises to God and to his name! Sing loud praises to him who rides the clouds. His name is the Lord—rejoice in his presence. <sup>5</sup> A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in his holy dwelling.

Isaiah 1:17 - Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed. Take up the cause of the fatherless; plead the case of the widow.

Exodus 22:22-23 – God said, “You must not exploit a widow or an orphan. <sup>23</sup> If you exploit them in any way and they cry out to me, then I will certainly hear their cry. <sup>24</sup> My anger will blaze against you, and I will kill you with the sword. Then your wives will be widows and your children fatherless.”

1 Timothy 5:3-10 - Give proper recognition to those widows who are really in need. <sup>4</sup> But if a widow has children or grandchildren, these should learn first of all to put their religion into practice by caring for their own family and so repaying their parents and grandparents, for this is pleasing to God. <sup>5</sup> The widow who is really in need and left all alone puts her hope in God and continues night and day to pray and to ask God for help. <sup>6</sup> But the widow who lives for pleasure is dead even while she lives. <sup>7</sup> Give the people these instructions, so that no one may be open to blame. <sup>8</sup> Anyone who does not provide for their relatives, and especially for their own household, has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

<sup>9</sup> No widow may be put on the list of widows unless she is over sixty, has been faithful to her husband, <sup>10</sup> and is well known for her good deeds, such as bringing up children, showing hospitality, washing the feet of the Lord's people, helping those in trouble and devoting herself to all kinds of good deeds.

**1) The church helps widows who are truly in need.**

**2) The church helps widows who are all alone.**

**3) The church helps widows who are godly.**