

## RECOMMIT

### Recommit 2 Compassion

Dr. Derwin L. Gray

- **27 Pure and undefiled religion before God the Father is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself unstained from the world.** James 1:27 CSB
  1. James 1:27 is part of a larger section of Scripture that teaches us there is a requirement to not only “hear” the Word, but to “do” in response to the Word. As a group (or as an alternative, individually) read James 1:19-27 and answer the following questions:
    - a. What type of “family” language does James use in v19? Why is this important to this passage of Scripture?
    - b. What is the danger of only hearing and not doing?
    - c. How would you describe religion that is impure and defiled (The opposite of what v27 requires of religion)?
- Compassion is rooted in the very nature of God.
  - **6b The LORD—the LORD is a compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger and abounding in faithful love and truth.** Exodus 34:6b CSB
    1. What does Exodus 34:6b tell us about the character and nature of God?
    2. What is evidence of God’s compassion to the Israelites in the Old Testament? (Hint: Think about the “Exodus.”)
    3. How do we see these characteristics displayed throughout the New Testament?
- When we are compassionate to social outcasts, we are worshiping God.
  - **27 Pure and undefiled religion before God the Father is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself unstained from the world.** James 1:27 CSB
    1. Pastor Derwin referred to “social outcasts.” Take a moment and talk about who these people may be?
    2. Before hearing the sermon, were you aware of and concerned that there are, in fact, social outcasts? If not, why not?
    3. How is it possible that our execution of acts of compassion is, in fact, acts of worship to God?
      - a. Read Romans 12:1-2. What is the connection between acts of compassion and our spiritual acts of worship?
- When we are compassionate, we are showing the world our Father’s love.
  - **5 God in His holy dwelling is a father of the fatherless and a champion of widows.** Psalm 68:5 CSB
    - THE HUNGER PROJECT: Prepared over 120,000 meals

- THE CLASSROOM PROJECT: Over \$63,000 donated in school supplies, resourced 7 schools, over 700 transformers participated!
- Gave \$107,184 to care for TC Members
- When we are compassionate, we are living out our holiness.
  - 27 Pure and undefiled religion before God the Father is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself unstained from the world. James 1:27 CSB
- 1. When we think about “acts of compassion” we often think about the impact to the person receiving the compassion. However, there is also something that is happening to the person who acts compassionately. What may be taking place in the believer as they act compassionately, in accordance with the will of God and reflecting the image of God?
- 2. Based on what Pastor Derwin said, what does it mean to you to “live out our holiness”?

**Closing:** Finish your discussion in prayer. Individually, take some time to consider people in your life who may be considered a “social outcast.” Pray for them and ask God to give you the courage by the power of the Holy Spirit to intentionally act in compassionate ways towards them, thereby showing them the love of Jesus.

**Encouragement:** Follow up your “acts of compassion” by communicating the “why” of your compassion. Namely, recount how God has been kind and gracious to you. How He has delivered you from the domain of darkness and into the Kingdom of light (Col 1:13) and how that experience is readily available because of the finished work of Christ on the Cross.