

# Pure Religion

(James 1:27)

- Introduction:
1. Do you know what 1 in 7 of women 20 years old and above have in common in this congregation?
  2. The answer is widowhood.
  3. That truth demands our intentional attention, and I will attempt to explain why in this lesson.

## I. Widows Have a Special Place in God's Heart

- A. (James 1:27).
1. Religion is almost a bad word in our culture today and is often contrasted with Christianity.
  2. Yet, James says there is a "pure religion."
  3. We sometimes give lip-service to "visiting the fatherless and widows" and jump straight to moral living.
- B. (Acts 6:1) Widows were being neglected.
- C. (Exodus 22:22-24) Mistreatment invokes God's judgment.
- D. (Deuteronomy 27:19) Curse placed upon anyone taking advantage.
- E. (Isaiah 1:17) Be an advocate for widows.
- F. (Zechariah 7:10) Don't oppress.
- G. Did you know there are 83 verses in the Bible, like the ones above, that speak of God's love, care, a protection of widows.

## II. How Can We Help This Special Class of People?

- A. Begin by recognizing they are a special class of people (hurting, wounded, lonely, incomplete, vulnerable, and oftentimes, scared).
- B. Stay connected after the funeral.
- C. Offer your help to do things they may be ill-equipped to do for themselves.
- D. Include them.
- E. Pray for them.

- Conclusion:
1. Personally, I love that the God we serve is so protective of widows. It's a beautiful trait.
  2. I also love that the Karns congregation is making the well-being of widows a priority.
  3. Realize that pure religion must not only be practiced by the church, but by you, as an individual.
  4. If this lesson exposes a weakness in your religious life, make correction and begin practicing pure and undefiled religion.