

# Christianity: The “Show Me” Religion

James 2:18

## Introduction:

- A. James challenges us to back up our claims in religion up with deeds.
  - 1. Like the boy courting girl: “P.S. If it don't rain I will see you Sunday.”
  - 2. Like loud-mouth side-line fan or club house golfer.
  - 3. Like some “church of Christers” away from home.
- B. James says to those who make certain claims about their religion – “show me”.

## Discussion:

### **I. If You Claim to Be Religious, Then Show Me. (1:26).**

- A. By controlling your tongue. (1:19,26).
- B. By doing the word (of God). (1:21-25).
- C. By practicing pure religion – positively and negatively:
  - 1. Doing good — “Visit orphans and widows”, for example.
  - 2. Not doing evil—“Keep oneself unspotted from world.”

### **II. If You Claim to Have Faith, Then Show Me. (2:18-20).**

- A. Unlike:
  - 1. The person who says, “Be warmed and filled”. (2:14-17).
  - 2. The demons (2:19)
- B. But Like:
  - 1. Abraham. (2:21-24).
  - 2. Rahab. (2:25-26).
  - 3. The list in Hebrews 11.

### **III. If You Claim Wisdom And Understanding, Then Show Me. (3:13).**

- A. By showing the meekness of Wisdom. (3:13).
  - 1. Not overly ambitious to be teachers. (3:1-12).
  - 2. Not using knowledge for self promotion and boasting (3:14 NKJV).
- B. By showing the wisdom from above rather than beneath. (3:14-18).
  - 1. First pure, then peaceable (v. 17)
  - 2. Peaceful rather than strife (vv. 14, 16, 18)
  - 3. Gentle and merciful rather than harsh and heartless. (v. 17)
    - a. Forbearing rather than overbearing (cf. Eph. 4:1-4)
    - b. Gentle and firm rather than brash and boastful (cf. 2 Tim. 2:24-26; 1 Pet. 3:15)
  - 4. Easily entreated (willing to yield) rather than rigid and unbending (v. 17)
    - a. Cannot yield the truth of the gospel. (Gal. 2:4).
    - b. Can yield when possible without sacrificing truth of gospel.

## Conclusion:

- A. Let us back our claims with deeds.
- B. Let properly show that we are really religious, faithful, and wise.