

James 1:26

If anyone among you thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one's religion is useless.

About a week ago, I was flying from Florida, to Colorado. I didn't have a direct flight so I had to change plans in Texas. While I was in Texas, waiting for my flight to Colorado, I walked around the airport and went to some of the different stores that are there. One of the stores I stopped at I call a toy store, because it's full of electronic stuff, like speakers, headphones, iPods, etc... The guy working there asked if he could help me, and I told him I was just looking around waiting for my next flight. He asked me where I was going and I told him I was going to Colorado. He then asked me if I was going there to smoke. I had to think about his question for a minute, when all of a sudden the light went on, as I understood that he meant was I going there to party and smoke pot, since it's legal in Colorado. I told him no, that I was just going back to where my job is. I also forgot to mention that I was wearing a religious Tee-shirt, and once he actually stopped and read it, all of a sudden he turned religious, asking me who the "bishop" was at my church.

But it just cracked me up how people can turn from being in the world to being religious as soon as they find out that you are a Christian.

I remember years ago at a job I had, we had a guy come in who was a temp. As soon as he found out that I was a Christian, he actually brought a picture of Jesus in and hung it up in the office, I suppose he was trying to impress me so that hopefully he would get hired. But this guy was not there very long, because he was let go for doing some things that we would just say were not a proper Christian lifestyle.

You may notice the same thing, as soon as you walk in the room, the conversation changes and the profanity lessens. But people don't realize that we all were like that before we became a Christian, so it's not a shock for us to hear profanity, dirty jokes and stories of how peoples party weekend was. No, we don't enjoy hearing it anymore, but still we are not shocked when we do.

Trying to act religious around Christians is like trying to act like a doctor around a doctor. The doctor can tell you're not a doctor and that you are putting on a show. Yet people don't realize that we can tell they are not religious but are only putting on a show as well.

It seems even your friends don't understand your new found relationship with Jesus. Their response is to also act different around you and treat you differently, maybe even going so far as no longer hanging out with you.

✠ **1 Peter 4:4 (MSG)** *Of course, your old friends don't understand why you don't join in with the old gang anymore. But you don't have to give an account to them.*

So what do we do in both cases?

Jesus told us what to do.

† **Matthew 5:44 (KJV)** *But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you.*

“Pray for them!”