

Come As You Are (CAYA) Service  
Wednesday, January 4, 2012  
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**Is God Pleased With Your List?**

Knocking under the hood of a car analogy –

- Car was knocking and took car to mechanic. Thought the knocking was due to infrequency of oil changes. Was told that it didn't matter how often the oil was changed; the seal was weak. The seal needed to be replaced.
- Our lives work the same way. Oil of a peace of mind, committed relationship, self-control, etc. It's amazing when we allow God to restore our seals to keep the oil He's poured into us.

Scripture Reference – **James 1:27**

Beginning of the year, we all come up with lists (weight loss, new job, potential spouse, etc.)

- We use the beginning of the new-year to start off with new courage!
- We create the lists, sometimes, before we pray, fast, listen, etc. The lists are not created with what God has for us, but what WE want. We create lists that are based on our own desires and aspirations, etc.

Until we read James 1:27 – “Religion that is pure and undefiled.... keep watch over the widows and orphans.....keep one's self unstained by the world”.

- **LIGHT BULB!** These items were not on our lists (tell the truth, shame the devil)!
- Is God pleased with our lists?
- Religion – those things that keep us focused on our God
- We can dance, sing, shout, etc. That does not mean our religion is pure and undefiled.

Here is how you know if God is pleased with your list:

1. Your list begins with blessing others.
  - a. Looking after widows and orphans – FIRST.
  - b. Who are the widows and orphans?
    - i. Those who live on the fringes of our society
    - ii. Those who are mistreated
    - iii. Those who are the most vulnerable
    - iv. Those, if they had the resources and wherewithal, would be their best selves
    - v. Victims vs. victors
  - Question: Does your list included “widows and orphans” among you?
  - c. If your religion is worth it's salt, you'll mentor others, etc.
  - d. Execute Godly Justice – is it on your list or is it about getting the next promotion?
    - i. Godly Justice: Restoring to the one who has been wronged the things that have been taken from them
    - ii. Restoring the weak
    - iii. Someone you can advocate for
2. You take responsibility for your own actions
  - a. Your vices (cookies, people, etc.). Ask God to take the “desire/taste” our of mouths.

- i. PROBLEM: We don't take responsibility for our own actions! We want God to undo something we created! We are asking God to do something we should be doing ourselves! We need to keep OURSELVES pure and undefiled.
    - ii. You need to know what you like. You'll know what to do when the temptation comes! It's not the world's responsibility to tempt you and for you to live a responsible and pure life!
  - b. We help guild ourselves toward restoration.
    - i. Setting responsible and mature goals
    - ii. When we do our part, it's amazing the blessings that will come our way!
- 3. "You will keep yourself unstained by the world" – When your list can't be done/accomplished without Jesus
  - a. Even on your best day, when you do what you are supposed to do, you will encounter blessings because you did what you were supposed to do.
    - i. There is a level that only JESUS can take you, too, though.
  - b. We can't keep ourselves unstained from the world. Only Jesus' blood can purify you. There is only so far you can go without Jesus.
  - c. If your list depends on your education, your good looks, etc., you don't need Jesus. If you don't need Jesus, you don't need God. ONLY Jesus can conquer and tackle the impossible.
  - d. Your list needs to have something on it that only **Jesus** can do
    - i. Not telling you this to set you up for failure, but for a *testimony*
    - ii. There is difference between **WITH** and **BY**
      - 1. The list needs to be accomplished WITH, not by Jesus
    - iii. Your salvation is not BY Jesus, but with Jesus. Jesus did all of the hard work, but we still had to confess Him with our mouths.
    - iv. Even if God didn't give us the things we prayed for, He gave us MORE than what we asked for.
    - v. Every now and then, you will encounter an obstacle that your education, resources, etc., won't be able to get you through.

God asks us, every now and then, for things that aren't on our list. He then takes the pen of circumstance and re-writes you list!

Re-write your own list and don't wait on circumstance!