

## Making it Personal



1. How does your Christian faith make the world a better place for you?
2. How are you going to glorify God this week in your personal walk of faith?

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### Next Week – Crossroads Series

Religion Hurts Diversity  
Galatians 3:26-29; Acts 2:5-12

Critics of religion see it as hypocritical, narrow-minded, and bigoted. Because they see religion as a breeding ground for discrimination, they also see it as detrimental to the well-being of society as a whole.

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SERMON NOTES



We Are Better Off Without Religion  
James 1:22-27  
Crossroads – Part 4  
January 30, 2022

# Life Group Study Notes



## Series Summary – Crossroads (6 Part Series)

Standing at a crossroads is the place that demands a decision. Do I go left, or do I stay right? When it comes to matters of faith and belief, there are questions that will force us to stand at a crossroad. Do I let it destroy any belief in God or do I learn from it and grow a deeper faith?

## This Week's Message – We Are Better Off Without Religion

The challenge against the value of religion continues to escalate. From secular claims about the harm religion creates, to the high-profile believers who have either damaged the faith or have walked away altogether.

## Study – Discovering What the Bible Says



1. What was one major takeaway from last week's study? (Hint: It involved the topic of war and violence)
2. Is there a cultural misconception about Christianity that you wish did not exist? Why does it bother or frustrate you?

## Read James chapter 1 (Message looked at verses 22-27)

3. How different would believers look to the outside world if we all lived out the principles of James chapter 1? (An interesting note: The book of James is modelled after Jesus' Sermon on the Mount in Matthew chapters 5-7)

4. What summary was given for James 1:22-27

Be mindful of what you \_\_\_\_\_.

Be mindful of what you \_\_\_\_\_.

Be mindful of what \_\_\_\_\_ you.

5. Below are 7 biblical principles that serve as benefits against those who would claim that we are better off without religion. They are counterintuitive to the cultural messaging. Interact with these principles and note how they make the world a better place. (These are taken from Rebecca McLaughlin's, *Confronting Christianity*).

- a. It really is more blessed to give than to receive

- b. Love of money disappoints

- c. Work works when it's a calling

- d. We really can be happy in all circumstances

- e. Gratitude is good for us

- f. Self-control and perseverance help us thrive

- g. Forgiveness is foundational

6. Are there any other comments or lessons from the message or subject you would like to discuss?