

- a. The *mirror function* of the Word is very important. Without it, we would have no standard to measure or judge.

When we think of a mirror, we realize that mirrors have limitations: **they only expose what is before them**. They expose it completely, but only what is shown.

Think through the main areas of your life: work, family, relationships, financial condition, and hobbies. Have you exposed your practices to the mirror of the Word? Have you subjected all these things to God's evaluation? What are you holding back? Make a list by category and discuss it with a significant other.

- b. The first test of pure and undefiled religion has to do with our speech. Look at Ephesians 4:25-32 and use those verses as a test for your speech.
- c. James 1:26 warns us again of deceit. This is the third time he's used it in the book. It is strange to think that a born-again Christian's heart could be deceived. To be deceived means *to be fooled, to be convinced that one thing is true when it is actually false*. We find this teaching in places like Jeremiah 17:9, Romans 7:14ff and Galatians 5:17.

Keep in mind that being deceived by definition means you can't figure it out on your own. You need the Word (see (a) above) and you need the church. Ask a significant other if he or she thinks you are doing better than you really are in walking with Christ.

- d. *Visiting orphans*. There are clear examples of how we can engage in this work even in our own Young Adults' community: meals, baby-ministry, prayer, visiting. Consider calling our Pastor for Seniors to see where you could visit. Consider talking to a deacon to see if there are needs you can work on. Visit our website and look at the "Men's Ministry," "Pastoral Care" and "Prayer" pages for opportunities.
- e. *Keeping oneself unstained from the world*. How is the world you live and work in prone to stain you? Is it greed? Lust? Power or fame? Make a list of the temptations that you face at your workplace (whether it is home or outside the home). Ask God and a significant other to help you determine if you have been stained.