



The weekly newsletter article of Parkside Chapel

LIFENEWS

Hope for the Journey



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The book of James gives Christians wisdom for living in a way that is pleasing to God. James provides short paragraphs which are, for the most part, concerned with application. James 1:26-28 says, "If anyone thinks he is religious without controlling his tongue, his religion is useless, and he deceives himself. Pure and undefiled religion before God the Father is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself unstained from the world." James says that to have a religion that is acceptable to God, we need three things:

1. To control our speech,
2. To care for widows and orphans,
3. To be focused on our sanctification.

This month, I want to focus on part of the second of

these requirements. This short statement from James comes directly after a famous passage in which he tells us that faith without works is dead. Our faith is meant to affect how we live our lives. According to James, faith that does not care for widows and orphans cannot be called real faith. We must ask ourselves the following question: Based on these requirements, would our religion be acceptable to God?

The Church, throughout the centuries, has been marked by a care for the marginalized, especially orphans. This has been a mark of showing the love that God has extended to us throughout the last 2000 years. In a world now that is more connected than ever, there are so many ways to take part in the care of orphans. Foster Care, International/Domestic Adoption, Respite, and providing care for kids and families are all ways we can help care for those who have

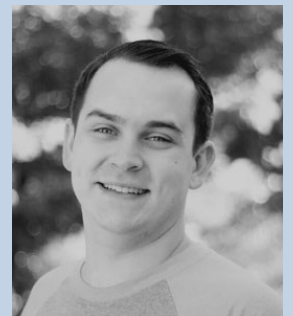
come from hard places. One of the things I love about Parkside is that there are so many people who have taken James's instructions seriously.

My goal is to encourage us to continue to care for children from hard places. Dr. Karyn Purvis helped create the Trust-Based Relational Intervention to give parents and caregivers the tools they need when parenting through trauma behaviors. This spring we are hosting (for the second time) the **Hope For the Journey Conference**. My wife and I will be hosting the simulcast as a weekly small group in our home on Saturdays at 10 AM starting April 27th. If you have adopted, have family who have adopted, or are wanting to be involved but don't know how, this conference is for you. We are excited to learn together how to care for precious children who have experienced hard things. What is the *Hope for the Journey Conference*?

Children navigating the journey of adoption and foster care often carry unique needs. The *Hope for the Journey Conference* is your gateway to a wealth of knowledge, understanding, and practical tools to help support children, parents, and families in your community. The conference includes research-based tools to promote attachment and connection in families such as Trust-Based Relational Intervention® (TBRI®) methods developed by Drs. Karyn Purvis and David Cross at TCU's Karyn Purvis Institute of Child Development. TBRI is a care model designed to help meet the relational and developmental needs of children and youth impacted by trauma.

So, if you are interested in adopting or being involved in the care of children from hard places, this conference is for you. My hope is that you will take this opportunity to discover how you can take part in the care of orphans. If you are interested in joining us, email me at:

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