



Religion Redefined

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Why do the followers of Jesus feel a gravitational pull towards orphans?

Because caring for orphans is a non-negotiable.

Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.

– James 1:27

Because defending orphans is a biblical command.

Stop doing wrong, learn to do right! Seek justice, encourage the oppressed. Defend the cause of the fatherless, plead the case of the widow. – Isaiah 1:16-17

A Threefold Strategy

1. Practical Help
2. Evangelism and Discipleship
3. Missional Engagement

Because we all were orphans.

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will— to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves.

– Ephesians 1:3-6

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Three Opportunities

1. Prayer
2. Adoption
3. Sponsorship

Next Steps

Child Sponsorship: Today you have an opportunity to change an orphan's life story from one of rejection and abandonment to one of acceptance and care. Read more on today's insert and stop by the Kidstown table after the service to find out more about child sponsorship.

Small Group Questions

- 1) Have you ever traveled overseas? Tell us about your experience. Do you have a favorite moment?
- 2) How do you respond to the word religion? How do think the world defines religion?
- 3) What is the heart of God towards widows and orphans? How does that heart affect you if you are neither a widow nor an orphan?
- 4) As a followers of Jesus, we all have a responsibility toward orphans. How are you being obedient to that call to action?
- 5) If you have sponsored a child, what has Jesus taught you through that relationship? If you just started a sponsorship this weekend, what are you looking forward to?
- 6) How can we pray for you today?