Christianity: The “Show Me” Religion
James 2:18

Introduction:
A. James challenges us to back up our claims in religion up with deeds.
   1. Like the boy courting girl: “P.S. If it don't rain I will see you Sunday.”
   2. Like loud-mouth side-line fan or club house golfer.
   3. Like some “church of Christers” away from home.
B. James says to those who make certain claims about their religion – “show me”.

Discussion:
I. If You Claim to Be Religious, Then Show Me. (1:26).
   A. By controlling your tongue. (1:19,26).
   B. By doing the word (of God). (1:21-25).
   C. By practicing pure religion – positively and negatively:
      1. Doing good — “Visit orphans and widows”, for example.
      2. Not doing evil—“Keep oneself unspotted from world.”

II. If You Claim to Have Faith, Then Show Me. (2:18-20).
   A. Unlike:
      1. The person who says, “Be warmed and filled”. (2:14-17).
      2. The demons (2:19)
   B. But Like:
      2. Rahab. (2:25-26).
      3. The list in Hebrews 11.

III. If You Claim Wisdom And Understanding, Then Show Me. (3:13).
   A. By showing the meekness of Wisdom. (3:13).
      1. Not overly ambitious to be teachers. (3:1-12).
   B. By showing the wisdom from above rather than beneath. (3:14-18).
      1. First pure, then peaceable (v. 17)
      2. Peaceful rather than strife (vv. 14, 16, 18)
      3. Gentle and merciful rather than harsh and heartless. (v. 17)
         a. Forbearing rather than overbearing (cf. Eph. 4:1-4)
         b. Gentle and firm rather than brash and boastful (cf. 2 Tim. 2:24-26; 1 Pet. 3:15)
      4. Easily entreated (willing to yield) rather than rigid and unbending (v. 17)
         a. Cannot yield the truth of the gospel. (Gal. 2:4).
         b. Can yield when possible without sacrificing truth of gospel.

Conclusion:
A. Let us back our claims with deeds.
B. Let properly show that we are really religious, faithful, and wise.