

**God's Honorable (Countercultural)  
Servants in a Strange Land  
or  
Loving Souls and Offering Them Christ  
While Living in a Strange Land**

**1 Peter  
2:11-4:19**

**Kingdom Living Among  
Non-believers  
2:11-25**

**This Week:**

*Honorable Servants of God 11-17*

**Next Week:**

*Servants Who Endure Suffering  
for Righteousness 18-25*

## **Beloved; Glorify God**

**1 Peter 2:11**

**Beloved, I urge you as  
aliens and exiles to  
abstain from the desires of  
the flesh that wage war against  
the soul.**

**Friends, this world is not your  
own, so don't make yourselves  
too cozy in it.**

**The Message**

**1 Peter 2:12**

**Conduct yourselves  
honorably among the  
Gentiles, so that, though they  
malign you as evildoers, they  
may see your honorable deeds  
and glorify God when he comes  
to judge. NRS**

**Don't indulge your ego at the expense of your soul. Live an exemplary life among the natives so that your actions will refute their prejudices. They'll be won over to God's side and be there to join in the celebration when he arrives.**

**The Message**

# Living Honorably



**Peacefully, with respect, but also  
with tenacious perseverance and steadfast  
conviction in the Truth  
of God, as well in the conveyance  
and adherence to that truth.**

**This is the way of our  
Lord Jesus Christ!**

**God's people occupy the middle  
ground...suspended in the middle,  
heading toward heaven though not yet  
fully there, but  
at the same time separated  
from others here below.**

**Augustine**

**Who would you choose?**



**Can We Talk?**



**Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God-- what is good and acceptable and perfect.** NRS

**Romans 12:2**

**If you belonged to the world, the world would love you as its own. Because you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world-- therefore the world hates you. <sup>NRS</sup>**

**John 15:19**

**I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world.** NRS

**John 17:14-16**

# **Why Does the World Hate Christians**

**Accountability**

**Others Before Self**

**Self Control**

**Justice**

**Morality**

**Mercy**

**Absolute Truth**

**Charity**

**Some hate us because we fall short of  
our ideals.**

**Some hate us because we become  
a threat to their agenda, when we  
hold onto to our ideals.**

**Some hate us because they don't like  
or they disagree what  
we stand for.**

**Some hate us because they say we  
are trying to steal their fun, or they  
are convicted by what we stand for.**

**But, when we conduct ourselves honorably for all to see, hate can quickly turn to respect. If we respect others for the sake of the Lord, others will respect us, even when they disagree. Hate then dissipates, and the door is open for the Lord to do something amazing.**

## **This is Not a Call to Passivity**

**Acting honorably is a powerful weapon,  
because respect brings forth respect,  
which then allows others to hear our  
position, and silences much of the hate,  
which is born out of ignorance.**

**1 Peter  
2:13-15**

**For the Lord's sake accept the authority of every human institution, whether of the emperor as supreme, or of governors, as sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to praise those who do right. For it is God's will that by doing right you should silence the ignorance of the foolish.** NRS

**...accept the authority of every human institution???**

**Three considerations:**

- 1. Stated reason**
- 2. God's purpose for these institutions.**
- 3. The Greek word "ktisei"**

**1. Stated reason.**

**“For the sake of the Lord”**

**2. God’s purpose for these institutions.**

**“To punish those who do wrong and  
praise those who do right”**

**3. The Greek word for “human creature” or  
“human authority (institution)”**

**The point is, that by doing right, we  
will silence the ignorance of the  
foolish.**

**How can we respect those,  
whom we don't think  
deserve it?**

**Is it lawful for us to pay taxes  
(give tribute) to the emperor,  
or not?"** NRS

Luke 20:22

**The Scriptures are telling us that it is a matter of respect, allegiance and accountability.**

**But he perceived their craftiness and said to them, "Show me a denarius. Whose head and whose title does it bear?" They said, "The emperor's." He said to them, "Then give to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's." <sup>NRS</sup>**

**Luke 20:23-25**

**It's a matter of what's best for the Kingdom! The question is "What puts the kingdom of God in the best light, and exhibits the fact that we, as God's people, "Love Souls, and Offer them Christ"**

**Respect: Created in God's image.**

**Allegiance: to authority  
structures designed by God.**



**Accountability: To God and God's  
commands.**

**So then, each of us will be  
accountable to God.<sup>NRS</sup>**

**Romans 14:12**

**We are to be subject to the governing authorities  
when it is clear that they are doing something in  
accordance with just laws.**

**Tertullian (ca 155-250 AD)**

**But if they command something that is contrary to  
God's will we do not obey.**

**Didymus (ca 313-398 AD)**

**We hold them accountable; Honorably but in no  
uncertain terms.**

**The disrespect of others, by the people  
of God, breeds disrespect for the Lord:  
We are called to be different.**

**If your enemies are hungry, give them  
bread to eat; and if they are thirsty,  
give them water to drink; for you will  
heap coals of fire on their heads, and  
the LORD will reward you. <sup>NRS</sup>**

**Proverbs 25:21**

**Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads."**

NRS

**Romans 12:19-20**

**Why can't we act honorably to others,  
even those with whom we disagree,  
for the Sake of our Lord Jesus  
Christ? All for the advancement of  
God's kingdom?**

**Humility and submissiveness  
are the most powerful of all evangelistic  
weapons. The enemy has no defense  
against such actions.**

**It is countercultural, thus it is  
taking the war to the enemy on  
God's terms, rather than on  
the enemy's terms.**

**Peacefully, with respect, but also  
with tenacious perseverance and steadfast  
conviction in the Truth  
of God, as well in the conveyance  
and adherence to that truth.**

**This is the way of our  
Lord Jesus Christ!**

# **Be Set Free**

**1 Peter  
2:16-17**

**As servants of God, live as free people, yet do not use your freedom as a pretext for evil. Honor everyone. Love the family of believers. Fear God. Honor the emperor.** NRS

**Let Us  
pray**