

God and Country

Maintaining Political Balance In Challenging Times
From The Series "Thriving In Challenging Times" - Part 9

1 Peter 2:13-17

13 For the Lord's sake, respect all human authority—whether the king as head of state, 14 or the officials he has appointed. For the king has sent them to punish those who do wrong and to honor those who do right. 15 It is God's will that your honorable lives should silence those ignorant people who make foolish accusations against you. 16 For you are free, yet you are God's slaves, so don't use your freedom as an excuse to do evil. 17 Respect everyone, and love your Christian brothers and sisters. Fear God, and respect the king.

THE MAJOR EMPHASIS IS "FOR THE L_____ S_____"
(NOT ANY P_____ AGENDA). (vs.13)

OUR FIRST RESPONSIBILITY TOWARD ALL AUTHORITY
IS R_____ . (vs. 13-14)

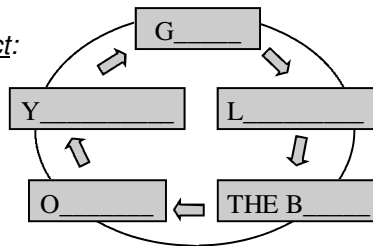
THERE IS A DANGER IN "H_____" THE G_____
BY THE WAY WE COMMUNICATE OUR POLITICAL OPINIONS. (vs. 15)

"It is God's will that by doing good, you might cure the ignorance of the fools who think you're a danger to society." (*The Message*)

WITH FREEDOM COMES THE DANGER OF A_____ . (vs.16)

LEARNING TO RESPECT OUR CIVIL LEADERS IS INTER-CONNECTED
WITH RESPECTING E_____ E_____ . (vs.17)

The Cycle of Respect:



Myth: You don't have to respect someone unless
you consider them to be worthy of respect.

WE MUST RESPECT RULERS EVEN WHEN WE D_____ . (vs.17-18)

1 Peter 2:17-18 Respect everyone, and love your Christian brothers and sisters. Fear God, and respect the king. You who are slaves must accept the authority of your masters with all respect. Do what they tell you—not only if they are kind and reasonable, but even if they are cruel.

WE ARE NOT CALLED TO R_____ EVERY W_____ .

Mat. 5:40 If you are sued in court and your shirt is taken from you, give your coat, too.
1 Corinthians 6:6-8 But instead, one believer sues another—right in front of unbelievers! 7 Even to have such lawsuits with one another is a defeat for you. Why not just accept the injustice and leave it at that? Why not let yourselves be cheated? 8 Instead, you yourselves are the ones who do wrong and cheat even your fellow believers.

Why did they say these things? (F_____ THE L_____ S_____)