

August 11, 2021

When I allow myself to get sucked into listening or reading something that is purely political I seldom walk away with a sense of well being and joy. Many times it is easy to give in to all kinds of emotions. It is easy to wonder what is going to happen to us? At times this leads me into negative and fear filled thoughts. These verses in 1 Peter are great reminders of WHO we are and HOW we should live as children of God.

1 Peter 2:11–12 (NLT) ¹¹ Dear friends, I warn you as “temporary residents and foreigners” to keep away from worldly desires that wage war against your very souls. ¹² Be careful to live properly among your unbelieving neighbors. Then even if they accuse you of doing wrong, they will see your honorable behavior, and they will give honor to God when he judges the world.

11- In this world I am a stranger, an exile, this world is NOT my home. (I live in a PLACE that is NOT my HOME)

12- I need to live in such a way that any who slander me will be MUZZLED because the GOOD things I DO, and the GOOD things I SAY are clearly visible to all.

13-14 I am to Submit to all human authority because the Lord God put those rulers in place. (I need to remember I was bought with a PRICE - the blood of Jesus so I am called to Glorify Him. 1 Cor. 6:20)

1 Peter 2:15–16 (NLT) 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.

15- It is God's WILL that I silence the talk of foolish people by DOING Good (To honor God who ordained human government, we must obey man-made laws as long as those laws do not conflict with the clear teaching of Scripture. BKC)

16- I am FREE, but I must never use my FREEDOM to cover over evil. (Christian Freedom must always be exercised in the LIGHT of Christian Responsibility. BKC)

17- I am to **RESPECT** all people (they are made in God's image); I am to **LOVE** the family of believers (they are my brothers and sister IN Christ); I must **FEAR** God (a deep reverence and awe which leads me into a deeper love for God and ongoing Obedience to Him); I am called to **HONOR** the King (God is Sovereign and He raises Rulers up and puts them down all according to His plans and purposes).

PRAYER

Lord God, please help me to remember You in all the things going on around me. Help me to bring my doubt and Fear to You. Help me to Remember You are Sovereign over all the Universe, the World, and all the Nations and governments in the world. Help me to live like a stranger and an exile as I eagerly pray for and watch for Your Return.

Pastor Mark Kieft