













#### **Show Respect**

**Love The Family Of Believers** 

**Revere God** 

**Honor The Emperor** 

The world needs to see that your conduct is honorable. Letting people see a genuine way of being human beings. *The Early Christian Letters For Everyone, N.T. Wright*  Emperors and heavy handed authorities: Throughout scripture there is an attack on all abuse of power. It is also God's plan to be ruled and governed by human authorities. Order is better than chaos.

Though our hatred of tyranny might lead us into the normal kind of revolutionary politics, Peter advocates a different way. Be subject to the ruling authorities, but make sure at the same time that, by your good behavior, you shame those who, out of folly and ignorance, want to criticize you. That is how God is establishing his presence and his rule on earth as in heaven.

Oppressive tyranny and violent revolution are not the only options. Serving the true God by living a peaceful, wise, visibly good life is, in the end, far more revolutionary than simply overthrowing one corrupt regime and replacing it by ... well, most likely by another, as history has shown. It won't be easy and Christians will suffer. Christians are to respect all people, they are to love the family of believers, always put God first, and pay respect to the Emperor.

The Early Christian Letters For Everyone, N.T. Wright

#### John 19:11

Jesus answered, "You would have no power over me if it were not given to you from above. Therefore the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin." The crucifixion of the Messiah was the most unjust and wicked act the world had ever seen. He deserved nothing but praise and gratitude, and they rejected him, beating, him up and killing him, suffering without throwing back curse at his torturers. We were going astray but His wounds brought us healing. Our sufferings can bring people to a new place.

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