

problem:

the outrage/apocalyptic industrial complex - is captured perfectly by H.L. Mencken when he said:

The whole aim of practical politics is to keep the populace alarmed— and hence clamorous to be led to safety— by menacing it with an endless series of hobgoblins...

-the gov says: watch out everyone this is going to kill you

the people say: .. oh no what do we do?

Gov: pay more taxes.

we say: ok

Gov says: wait no this is going to kill you -what do we do... on and on.

Text:

Live Honorably in this Fallen World

1Pet. 2:11 ¶ Beloved, I urge you **as sojourners and exiles** to **abstain from the passions of the flesh**, which wage war against your soul.

1Pet. 2:12 (by) **Keep(ing) your conduct among the Gentiles honorable**, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.

->the general flow: *as aliens of another country, abstain from former passions, keep your conduct honorable*

-sojourners and exiles; gentiles -> 1 Peter 2:9-10

-passions of the flesh -> 1 Peter 1:14-16

-speak evil against you -> Acts 16:19-34

- matt 5:13-16

Our behavior over the long haul should be so positive that it will dismantle the negative accusations. That's why Peter wrote, Live such good lives among the pagans (italics added). That kind of lifestyle testimony may be the argument that wins the critic to Christ: they may see your good deeds (be saved) and glorify God on the day He comes.

Under this Fallen Government

1Pet. 2:13 ¶ **Be subject** for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme,

1Pet. 2:14 or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good.

1Pet. 2:15 For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people.

1Pet. 2:16 Live **as people who are free**, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living **as servants of God**.

1Pet. 2:17 **Honor** everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. **Honor** the emperor.

->The general flow : *Be subject, as free people (by choice), as slaves of God*

-every human institution - God and government - Rom 13:1-7

-1 tim 2:1-4 -somehow related to evangelism...

-for the Lord's sake - illustrated by Joseph, Mordecai; Dan 3, 6

As Ambassadors of a perfect world with a perfect government

2 cor 4-6:10 - this is the context of our task

Main Idea:

Christian, live honorably in this fallen world, under this fallen government, as ambassadors of a perfect world with a perfect government

Implication:

Honor everyone - honor the emperor -

The most dishonorable thing we as American Christians can do right now is to contribute to the outrage industrial complex. This is not our home. Government is not our hope. It is our mission field. Our goal is not a better government or a better world. God is bringing a perfect government and a perfect world. We must live winsomely in this corrupt world among corrupt people under corrupt governments as a beacon of light to a perfect world with a perfect government resting on the shoulders of a perfect savior

Application:

debate policy and do so vigorously but do not commit to the outrage and the libel that comes so easily.

Am I disturbed at this world - yes -

what is the answer - not a better world -

the answer is the perfect one coming.

I will vote and voice my opinion but I refuse to be outraged.

Am I disturbed by this government - yes -

what is the answer?

the answer is not a better one but a perfect one and He is coming and the government is resting on His shoulders.

Action:

Honor everyone.

Love the brotherhood.

Fear God.

Honor the emperor

here are some articles for further discussion:

<http://www.gotquestions.org/Bible-government.html>

<http://www.russellmoore.com/2012/03/25/should-christians-boycott-starbucks/>

<https://bible.org/seriespage/33-christian-and-civil-government-romans-131-7>