

Easy as
1, 2...4

1 Peter 2:17

Honor everyone.

- **Respect and value all people**
 - Hold no one in contempt or think of them as beneath us
- **God made us all (Acts 17:26)**
- **Jesus died for us all (John 3:16)**
- **All means all**
 - Jew or Gentile... it makes no difference
 - Nationality, race, color... it makes no difference
 - Rich, poor, conservative, liberal... it makes no difference
- **The first step in elevating others is humbling self**

Love the brotherhood.

- **Above our esteem for all, show affection for our brethren**
 - *“as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.” (Gal. 6:10)*
- **agapé** - active goodwill for that person’s benefit or welfare
- **Brotherly love “does not insist on its own way” (1 Cor. 13:5)**
 - *“Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor.” (Rom. 12:10)*
 - *“It is good not to eat meat or drink wine or do anything that causes your brother to stumble.” (Rom. 14:21)*
- **True love is “sincere”, “earnest” and “pure” (1 Pet. 1:22)**

Love the brotherhood.

- **Reflects directly on our relationship with God**
 - *“By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” (John 13:35)*
- **What does our love for our brethren show?**
 - The time we spend with them?
 - What we do for them?
 - What we say about them?
- *“If anyone says, “I love God,” and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen.” (1 John 4:20)*

Fear God.

- **Jesus said:**

- *“And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.”*

(Mark 12:30)

- *“And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell.”*

(Matt. 10:28)

- **Love & fear are not opposites and not mutually exclusive**

- **Love & fear blend in true “reverence” and “deference”**

- **Peter said, “fear God”**

Honor the emperor.

- **Be subject to civil authorities for the Lord's sake (2:13-15)**
 - Usual caveats apply (Acts 4:19; 5:29)
- **Respect and value the king and his agents**
 - He is due "*honor*" but not adoration or worship
 - "They were to submit and to honor, but not to fear, the reigning ruler. Christians do not fear rulers in the same way they fear God."
– Duane Warden
- ***"Therefore render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's"* (Matt. 22:21)**
 - Obey the law, pay your taxes...
 - Give your heart, mind, spirit and body to serving God

Easy as 1, 2...4

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

Servants of God will:

- Honor everyone
- Love the brotherhood
- Fear God
- Honor the emperor

Will we live as servants of God?

