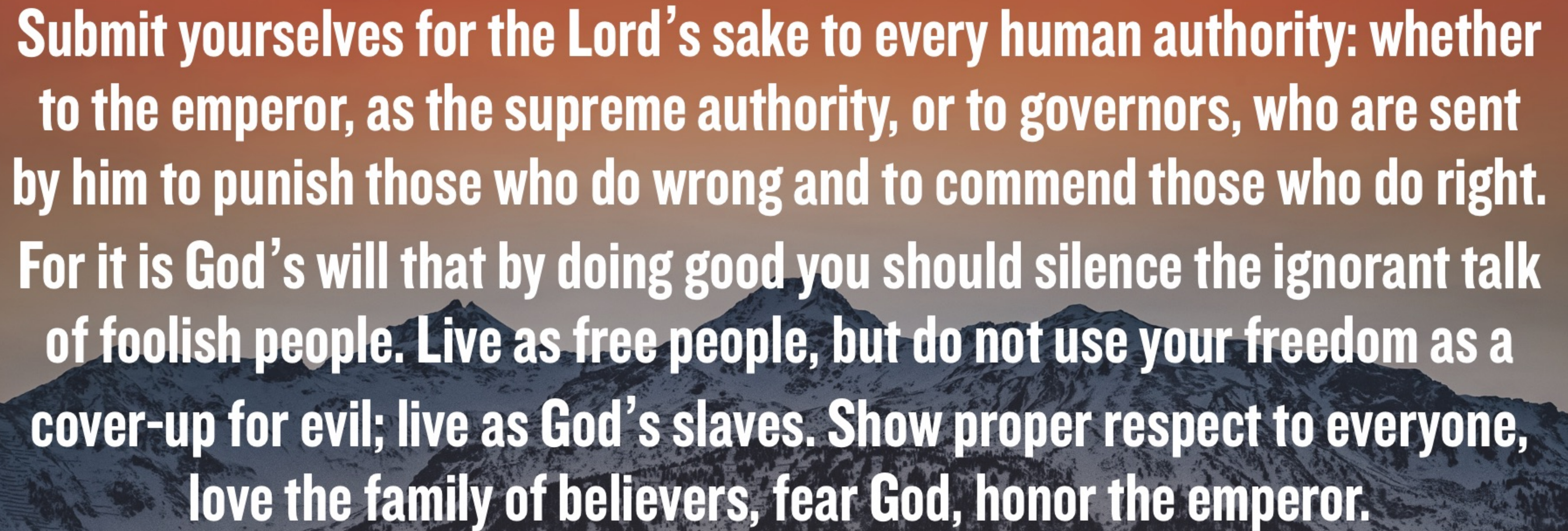


# LIVING AS FREE CITIZENS OF HEAVEN

*1 Peter 2:13-17*







**Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human authority: whether to the emperor, as the supreme authority, or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right. For it is God's will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish people. Live as free people, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as God's slaves. Show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers, fear God, honor the emperor.**

**1 PETER 2:13-17**



**PETER ISN'T CALLING US TO  
BLIND OBEDIENCE OR PASSIVE  
ACCEPTANCE OF EVIL.**



**LIVING AS FREE CITIZENS OF HEAVEN,  
WE SUBMIT FOR THE LORD'S SAKE.**

**Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human authority.**

**1 PETER 2:13**

**The Greek word Peter uses for “submit” is “hupotasso”.  
It's a military term that means to arrange yourself under.**

**WE SUBMIT BECAUSE WE'RE  
ULTIMATELY SUBMITTED TO JESUS.**



**LIVING AS FREE CITIZENS OF HEAVEN,  
WE SHINE THROUGH DOING GOOD.**

**For it is God's will that by doing good you should  
silence the ignorant talk of foolish people.**

**1 PETER 2:15**

**The Greek word for "silence" here literally means to muzzle,  
like putting a muzzle on a barking dog.**

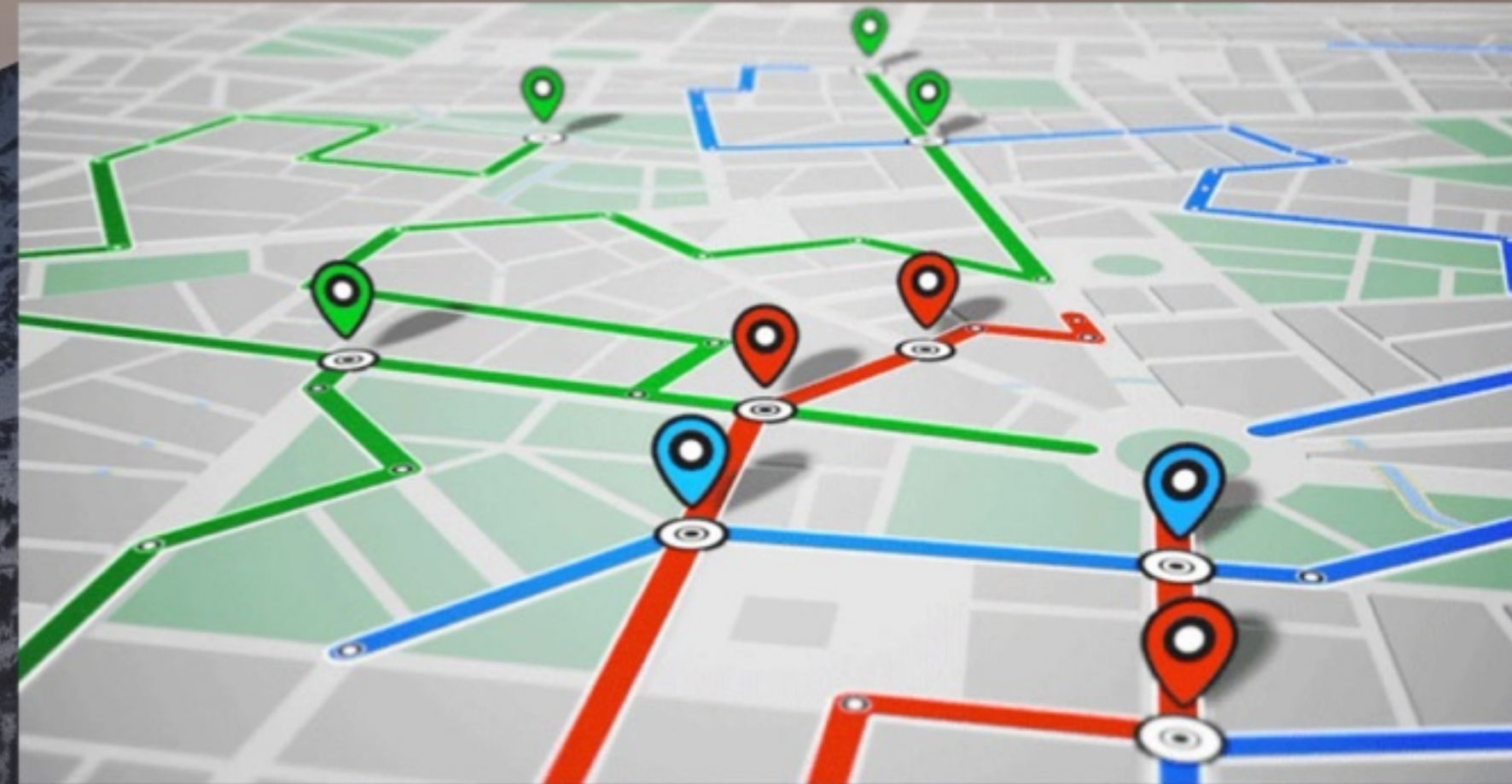
**OUR GOOD WORKS BECOME THE MEGAPHONE THROUGH  
WHICH GOD'S GRACE SPEAKS TO A WATCHING WORLD.**



# LIVING AS FREE CITIZENS OF HEAVEN, WE'RE SITUATED IN FREEDOM'S TENSION.

Live as free people, but do not use your freedom as  
a cover-up for evil; live as God's slaves.

1 PETER 2:16



CHRIST'S FREEDOM ISN'T TO DO WHATEVER -  
IT'S FREEDOM TO DO WHAT'S RIGHT.



**LIVING AS FREE CITIZENS OF HEAVEN,  
WE SHOW RESPECT STRATEGICALLY.**

**Show proper respect to everyone,**

**love the family of believers,**

**fear God,**

**honor the emperor.**

**1 PETER 2:17**



**1. HE SHOWED RESPECT AND COOPERATION  
IN NON-ESSENTIAL MATTERS.**

**2. HE GAVE HONOR TO NEBUCHADNEZZAR  
WHILE TESTIFYING TO GOD'S SUPERIORITY.**

**3. HE SERVED LOYALLY IN A PAGAN  
GOVERNMENT WITHOUT COMPROMISING  
WORSHIP.**


**4. HE DISOBEYED DIRECT COMMANDS THAT  
VIOLATED GOD'S LAW.**

**5. HE SPOKE TRUTH TO POWER WITH  
BOLDNESS AND HUMILITY.**





# **LIVING AS FREE CITIZENS OF HEAVEN, WE STAY FOCUSED.**

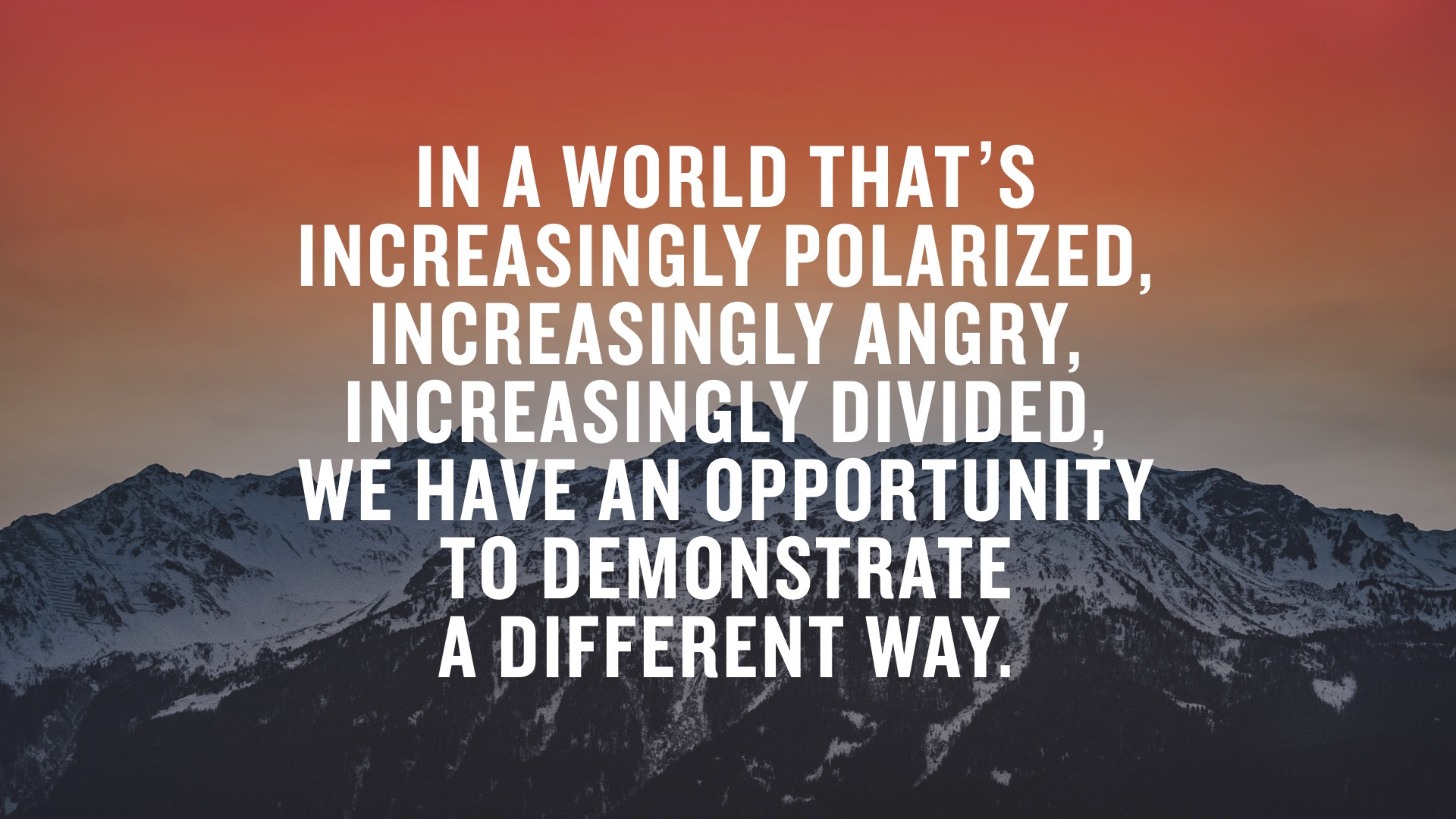
- 1. Remember that our submission is always filtered through our submission to Christ.**
  - 2. Focus on doing good rather than just fighting bad.**
  - 3. Embrace the tension of freedom.**
  - 4. Practice strategic respect.**
- 



**WE'RE NOT CALLED TO BE POLITICAL  
ACTIVISTS OR PASSIVE DOORMATS.**

**WE'RE CALLED TO BE LIKE JESUS.**





**IN A WORLD THAT'S  
INCREASINGLY POLARIZED,  
INCREASINGLY ANGRY,  
INCREASINGLY DIVIDED,  
WE HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY  
TO DEMONSTRATE  
A DIFFERENT WAY.**