Putting on the Armor of Light: at Home and Beyond

“A Christian must reckon himself undressed, if unarmed.”
— Matthew Henry, Bible Commentator of the late 1600’s

ROMANS 13:10-15 (AMPLIFIED BIBLE)

10 Love does no wrong to one’s neighbor [it never hurts anybody]. Therefore love meets all the requirements and is the fulfilling of the Law.

11 Besides this you know what [a critical] hour this is, how it is high time now for you to wake up out of your sleep (rouse to reality). For salvation (final deliverance) is nearer to us now than when we first believed (adhered to, trusted in, and relied on Christ, the Messiah).

12 The night is far gone and the day is almost here. Let us then drop (flying away) the works and deeds of darkness and put on the [full] armor of light.

13 Let us live and conduct ourselves honorably and becomingly as in the [open light of] day, not in reveling (carousing) and drunkenness, not in immorality and debauchery (sensuality and licentiousness), not in quarreling and jealousy.

14 But clothe yourself with the Lord Jesus Christ (the Messiah), and make no provision for [indulging] the flesh [put a stop to thinking about the evil cravings of your physical nature] to [gratify its] desires (lusts).

Putting on the Armor of Light by LOVING OTHERS WELL

PHILIPPIANS 2:3-5
Jesus prayed, "Father, forgive them; they don't know what they're doing." Dividing up his clothes, they threw dice for them. The people stood there staring at Jesus, and the ringleaders made faces, taunting, "He saved others. Let's see him save himself! The Messiah of God—ha! The Chosen—ha!"

Biblical synonym for enemy: ________________________________________________

Webster’s definition of “oppressor”:
- one who is harsh
- one who tries to persecute others
- one who seeks to cause another distress

Greek “oppress”: to exercise power over

Matthew 5:38-48

When we choose to bless our enemy in...
- prayer
- deed
- word

...it will set two things in motion: ____________________________ and ____________________________
**Romans 12:18 (Amplified Bible)**
“If possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.”

**Romans 12:19-21**

**Index Card:**
Will you commit to...

1. **PRAY** for your enemy?
2. **BLESS** your enemy in a tangible way?

**For Further Study:**
- II Chronicles 20: 27
- Psalms 18:47-50
- Psalms 23:5
- Psalms 119:94-98
- Psalms 143:12
- Proverbs 16:1-7
- Proverbs 25:21
- John 8:12
- Ephesians 4:31, 32
- Romans 12:14-21
Ten Biblical Requirements for Responding to an Enemy:
(based on verses in Proverbs 25, Matthew 5, and Romans 12)

1. Meet their needs, particularly their physical needs.
2. Don’t fight back, love back. (turn the other cheek)
3. Do more than they ask, give more than they take.
4. Love them.
5. Pray for them.
6. Bless them, do not curse them.
7. Try to be at peace with them.
8. Do not repay their evil ways with your evil ways.
9. Don’t avenge yourself; let God repay them.
10. Don’t be discouraged or disheartened by them, overcome evil with GOOD!

Two Recommended Books on Loving Well:

Reduce Me to Love; Unlocking the Secret to Lasting Joy by Joyce Meyer

Legacy of Love; A Plan for Parenting on Purpose by Dr. Tim Kimmel