



## 3 THINGS GOD GIVES US TO LIVE IN A DARK WORLD

### A COMMAND TO LOVE.

**1 John 2:7-17 (NLT)** Dear friends, I am not writing a new commandment for you; rather it is an old one you have had from the very beginning. This old commandment—to love one another—is the same message you heard before. <sup>8</sup> Yet it is also new. Jesus lived the truth of this commandment, and you also are living it. For the darkness is disappearing, and the true light is already shining. <sup>9</sup>

If anyone claims, “I am living in the light,” but hates a Christian brother or sister, that person is still living in darkness. <sup>10</sup> Anyone who loves another brother or sister is living in the light and does not cause others to stumble. <sup>11</sup> But anyone who hates another brother or sister is still living and walking in darkness. Such a person does not know the way to go, having been blinded by the darkness.

**Matthew 5:43-44 (NKJV)** “You have heard that it was said, ‘*You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.*’” <sup>44</sup> But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you,

### How Do I Love People Who Are Hard To Love?

#### Look Past Their Behavior To Their VALUE . . . Why?

God created everyone with **DIGNITY**.  
God created everyone **UNIQUE**.  
God will use them to teach us how **HE** loves.

### A REMINDER TO GIVE US STRENGTH.

**1 John 2:12-14 (NLT)** I am writing to you who are God’s children because your sins have been forgiven through Jesus.

<sup>13</sup> I am writing to you who are mature in the faith because you know Christ, who existed from the beginning. I am writing to you who are young in the faith because you have won your battle with the evil one. <sup>14</sup> I have written to you who are God’s children because you know the Father. I have written to you who are mature in the faith because you know Christ, who existed from the beginning. I have written to you who are young in the faith because you are strong. God’s word lives in your hearts, and you have won your battle with the evil one.

### A WARNING TO PROTECT US FROM THE ENEMY.

**1 John 2:15-17 (NLT)** Do not love this world nor the things it offers you, for when you love the world, you do not have the love of the Father in you. <sup>16</sup> For the world offers only a craving for physical pleasure, a craving for everything we see, and pride in our achievements and possessions. These are not from the Father, but are from this world. <sup>17</sup> And this world is fading away, along with everything that people crave. But anyone who does what pleases God will live forever.

**Genesis 3:6 (ESV)** So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.

### When We Give Into The Enemy . . .

We believe a LIE.  
We disobey a COMMAND.  
We make an EXCUSE.