



ENGAGEMENT

THE ROYAL TASK



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God's Meta-Narrative

extraordinary events- eternal ramifications

Creation Fall Redemption **Engagement** Restoration

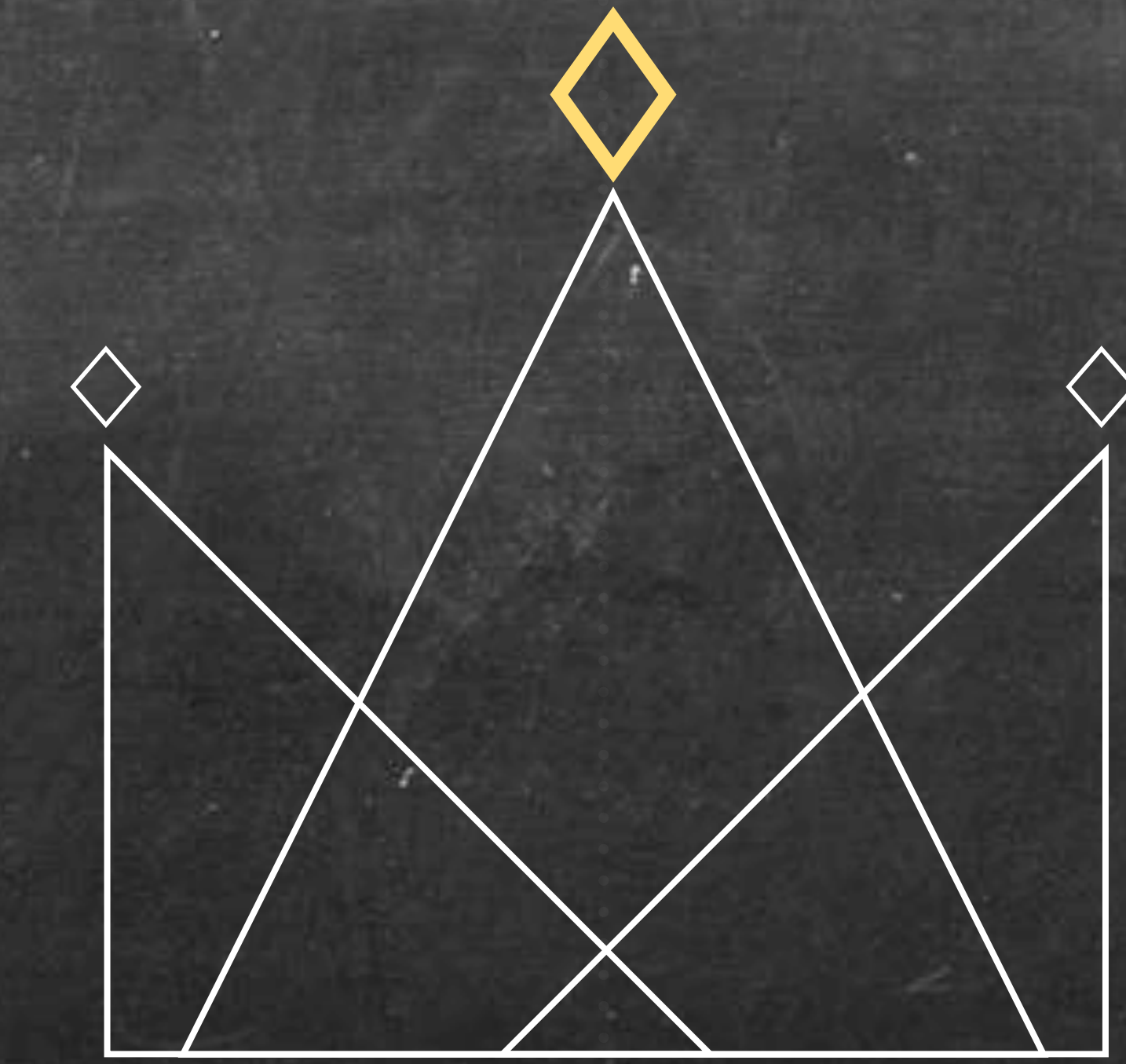
God's Meta-Narrative

extraordinary events- eternal ramifications

Engagement - Jesus left, Holy Spirit came

why?

CROWN JEWEL



(the King's Order)

the **ROYAL TASK**

How many **commands** are there?

Mitzvot: 613

New Testament: 1,050

Entire Bible: 6,468

Jesus' commands: 684

How many **needs** are there?

Too many hungry, sick, in prison, orphans,
widows, lost, alone, neglected...

Too much poverty, abuse, crime, oppression...



“Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is **easy**, and my burden is **light**.”

-Matthew 11:28-30

For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are **not burdensome**.

-1 John 5:3

His commands are not burdensome?

There are a ton of commands and needs!

How is this possible, how is this not burdensome?

For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are **not burdensome**.

-1 John 5:3

What if, when Jesus left, he had left us with just **one** simple command?

Wouldn't that have been easier?

Do you think we could have done it?

What do you think it would be?

Remember when Jesus **was** asked to pick the greatest one?

Remember when Jesus **was** asked to pick the greatest one?

An expert in the law, tested Him with this question: 'Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?'

Jesus replied: 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' **This is the first and greatest commandment.**

And the second is **like it**: '**Love your neighbor as yourself**.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.

-Matthew 22:37-40

Love God
Love your neighbor

plus a new one...

A new commandment I give to you, that
you **love one another**, even as I have loved you,
that you also **love one another**.

-John 13:34

the Meta-Commands

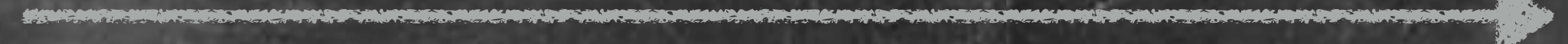
Love God
Love your neighbor
Love one another

the Three Agape's

Love God
Love your neighbor
Love one another

the Law of Christ?

Love God
Love your neighbor
Love one another



the three (**and all**) laws boiled down to one

Back to the nature of God

For the whole law is **fulfilled in one word,**
you shall love your neighbor as yourself.

-Galatians 5:14

...fulfill **the Royal Law** according to the scripture,
you shall love your neighbor as yourself.

-James 2:8

For the commandments, "You shall not commit adultery, you shall not murder, you shall not steal, you shall not covet," and **any other** commandment, are **summed up in this one word: you shall love your neighbor as yourself.**

-Romans 13:9

The greatest commandment:

love God and love your neighbor... -Matthew 22:37-40

All commandments “summed up” in:

“love your neighbor as yourself.”

-Romans 13:9; Galatians 5:14

The “Royal Law”:

“love your neighbor as yourself.” -James 2:8

this is stunning to me...

the consummate Book of
the understatement

this just might be a big deal

Love your neighbor

“a steadfast, sacrificial zeal that seeks the
true good of your neighbor’s near you”

Definitions are important!

love? - ‘**agape**’ - “a steadfast, sacrificial zeal...”
neighbor? - ‘plosion’ - one who lives near

A man with glasses and a blue t-shirt is sitting at a desk in a dimly lit room. He is looking directly at the camera. Behind him is a computer monitor displaying a blue-toned image. To the left, there are string lights with small, colorful lights. The overall atmosphere is quiet and focused.

What does it mean to love your neighbor?

What does it mean to love your neighbor?

neighbor: 'plosion'

"one who lives **near**"

Why do we want this to mean

one who lives **far**?

A new perspective... a **family** perspective
(singles too!)

Love your **neighbor**:
“a steadfast, sacrificial zeal that seeks the **true**
good of the one who lives near you”



the primary work of the Kingdom has been
entrusted to the common, every-day Christian family



Love your **neighbor**:

“a steadfast, sacrificial zeal that seeks the **true**
good of the one who lives near you”

But wait...aren't we supposed to love God first?

If you love me you will keep my commandments.

-John 14:15

He who has my commands and keeps them, it is
he who loves me...

-John 14:21

For this is the love of God, that we keep his
commandments.

-1 John 5:3

If you love me you will keep my commandments.

-John 14:15

Whoever has my commands and keeps them, it
is he who loves me...

-John 14:21

For this is the love of God, that we keep his
commandments.

-1 John 5:3

There's a close link between **loving God** and
keeping His commandments



What about the Great Commission?

“Go into all the world...”

“Be fruitful, multiply and fill the earth...”

...and what you have heard from me...entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also...

-2 Timothy 2:2

Maybe the Great Commission was to be primarily fulfilled **one neighbor at a time**



Love your neighbor:

“a steadfast, sacrificial zeal that seeks the **true**
good of the one who lives near you”

Isn't this just a **general** command?

Isn't this more **philosophical** than **literal**?

The “humanity” counterfeit of agape

The notion that true love is loving the world or loving humanity: where we get in a big circle, hold hands and sing songs about loving the world and everybody tears up





“It is easier to be enthusiastic about Humanity with a capital ‘H’ than it is to love individual men and women, especially those who are uninteresting, exasperating, depraved, or otherwise unattractive. Loving everybody in general may be an excuse for loving nobody in particular.”

-C.S. Lewis





Love your **neighbor**:

“a steadfast, sacrificial zeal that seeks the **true good** of the one who lives near you”

What about the Good Neighbor story?

You know, if I ever happen upon someone left by the side of the road...

“Who proved to **be** a good neighbor to the one who had fallen into the hands of the robbers?”

This wasn't who your neighbor is, this is what a good neighbor looks like



what about the poor and the hungry...?

Who are the poor, the hungry, and the sick?

How does God see these words?

“You **blind** guides!”

“The Lord’s servant must gently instruct those who are opposed, in the hopes that God will grant them repentance, they will come to their senses and escape the trap of the devil who has taken them **captive** to do his will.”

“... you say ‘I am rich and have become wealthy and have need of nothing’ and you do not know that you are wretched and miserable and **poor** and **blind** and **naked**...”

-Revelation 3:17

a new look at our neighbor, through God's eyes

“The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the **poor**. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the **prisoners** and recovery of sight for the **blind**, to set the **oppressed** free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.”

-Luke 4:18-19



Love your **neighbor**:

“a steadfast, sacrificial zeal that seeks the **true
good** of the one who lives near you”

Isn't this the church's job?

Don't we pay the professionals to do this?

God has entrusted the primary work
of the Kingdom
to the common, every-day Christian

The Royal Law is simple,
profound
and **ignored.**

Why?

Love your **neighbor**

What if Paul said **precisely** what he meant?

What if James said **precisely** what he meant?

What if Jesus said **precisely** what he meant?

It's too simple, it's too hard...

especially when it destroys your wife's flower beds



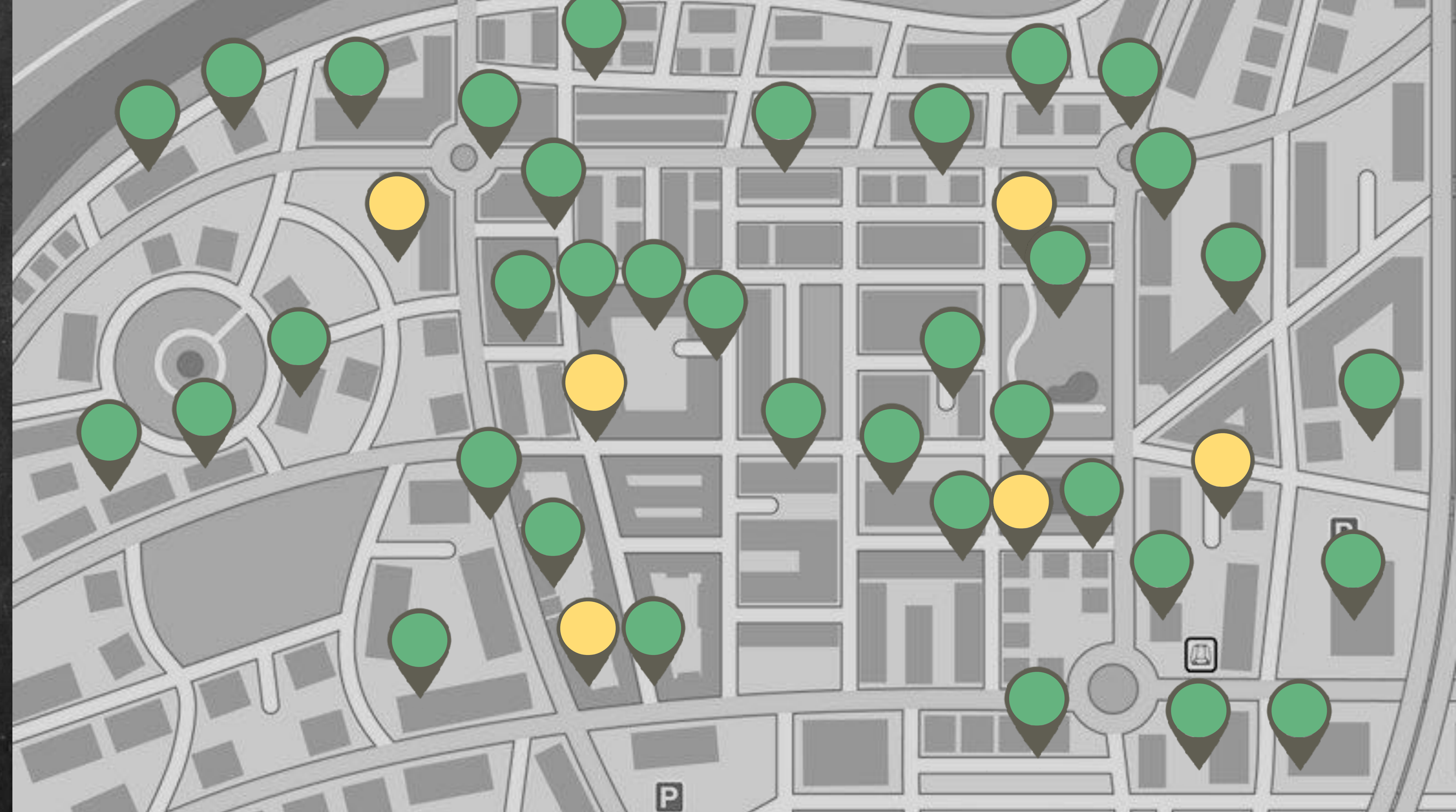
The Vision



80 million committed
Christians



240 million others





this is ground zero

Christian families committed to the
Shalom of their neighbors

Christian families committed to the
Shalom of their neighbors

The people of God carrying out the Royal law...

turning the world upside down...

one neighbor at a time

