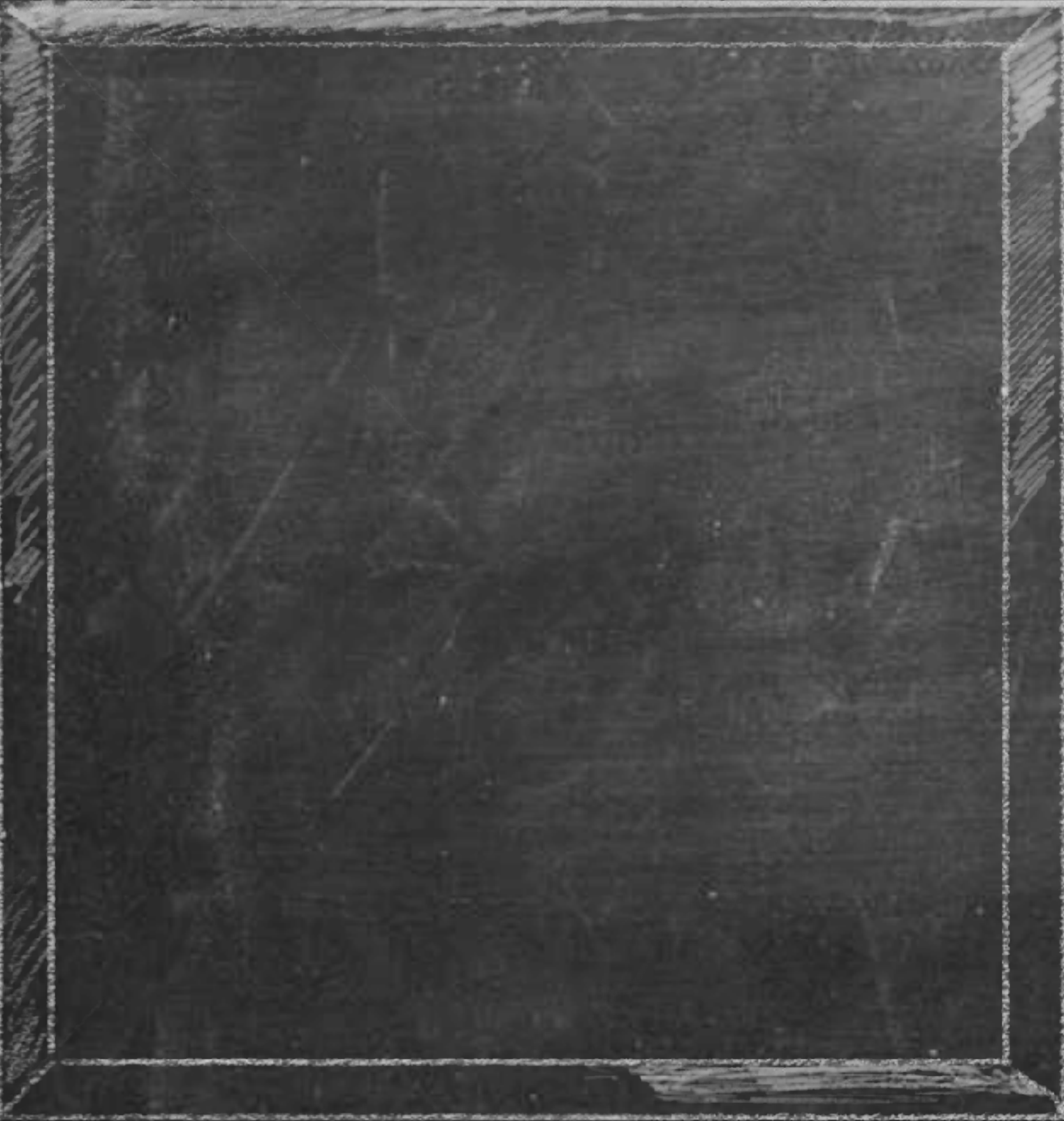




THE VISION
ENGAGING WITH GRACE



THE VISION:
ENGAGING WITH GRACE

Saul of Tarsus

God's amazing Sovereignty

If God **plants** nations...

do you think He could **plant** your neighbor?

From one man He made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and He determined the times set for them and the exact places (or boundaries) where they should live.

-Acts 17:26

God's amazing Sovereignty

The Lord told him, "Go to the house of Judas
on Straight Street and ask for a man from
Tarsus named Saul..."

-Acts 9:11

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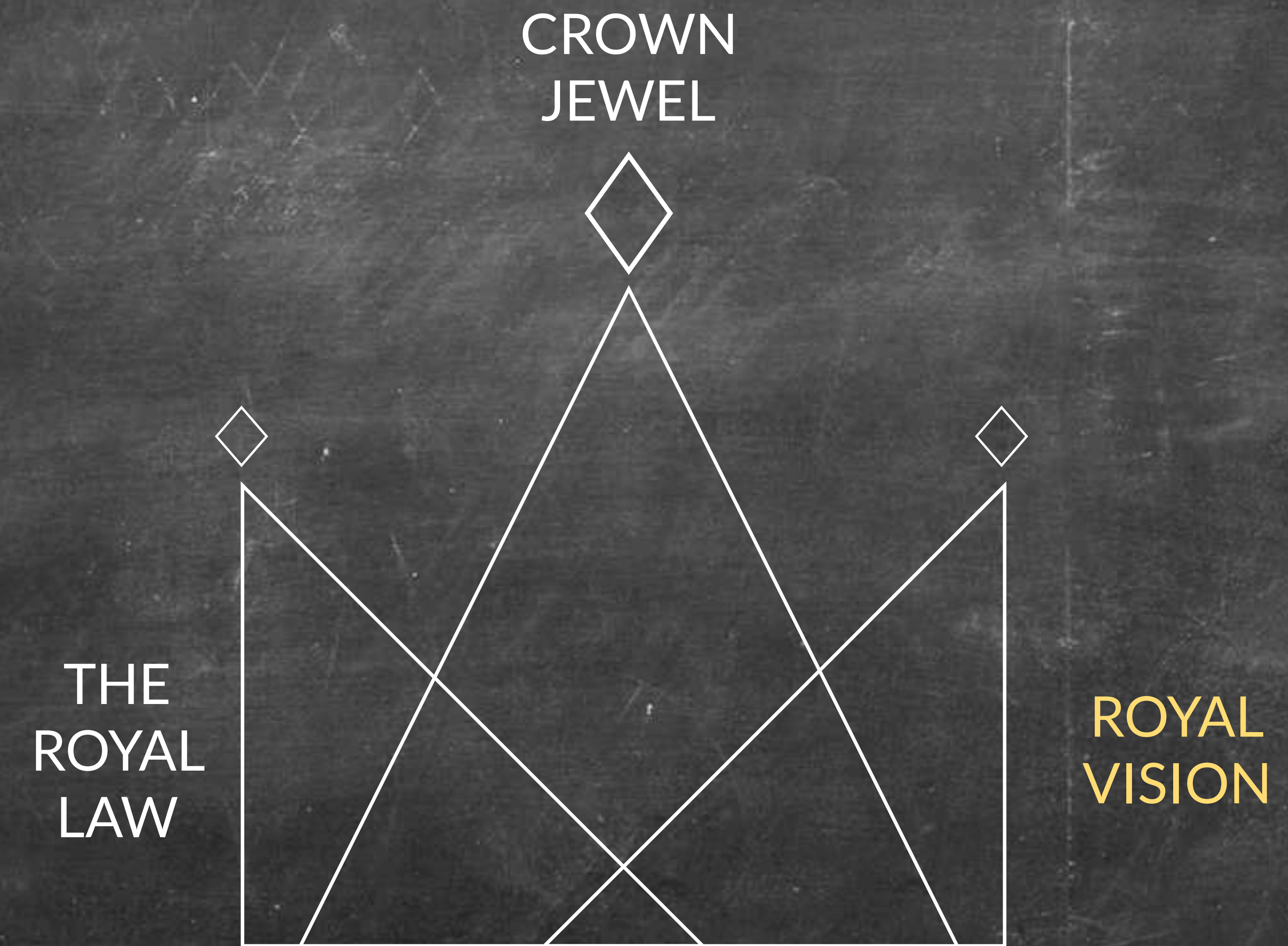
The Royal Law: Love your neighbor

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

do we see our neighbor this way?

What did Jesus leave us to do?

We're now ready for the Royal Vision



The Vision

Christian **families/singles** 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

We will build real relationships
with those providentially in our Jerusalem,
through prayer and action,
with grace and wisdom and truth,
being attractively winsome,
tearing down walls, building up trust,
doing the work of the Kingdom.

The Vision

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How shall we then **engage**?

How shall we then **engage**?

The Vision

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what does this look like?

Jesus is our example

“...love one another, even **as I have** loved you.”

-John 13:34

What does a significant relationship **look like**?

not shallow
friendship
communicating
eating together
doing projects together

What does it take to **build** a significant relationship?

time
effort
sacrifice
overcome walls

In a fallen world, deep relationships must
be cultivated

They require sacrifice, skill, and **work**



The Vision

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- ✦ Divine relationships require time, effort and sacrifice
- ✦ If we do not cultivate, there will be no fruit
- ✦ “drive-by” Christianity will not work

The Vision

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It is highly probable that the only real
relationship your neighbor will ever
have with a Christian...

is with you

The Vision

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- ✦ Pray, as a family, for opportunities
- ✦ Learn their names
- ✦ Plan loving deeds & acts of kindness
- ✦ Practice hospitality; have fun together

The Vision

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with **grace** and **wisdom** and **truth**,

Conduct yourselves with **wisdom** toward outsiders, making the most of the opportunity. Let your speech always be with **grace**, as though seasoned with salt, so that you might know how to respond to each person.

-Colossians 4:5-6

“...but in your **hearts** honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet **do it with gentleness and respect.**”

-1 Peter 3:15

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The Lord’s servant **must gently instruct** his opponents...“in the hope that God will **grant them** repentance leading them to a knowledge of the **truth**, and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them **captive** to do his will.” -2 Timothy 2:24-26

with Grace



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being **attractively winsome**,

What would make a neighbor “attractively winsome”... to you?

A neighbor with whom others would be interested in building a relationship

“I really enjoy being around him/her/them because...”

what if the “fruit” was not
intended to be primarily for you?

to equip us
to be “attractively winsome”

so that we might **engage** and build a significant
relationship with our neighbor

to fulfill the Royal Law

love

joy

peace

patience

kindness

goodness

faithfulness

gentleness

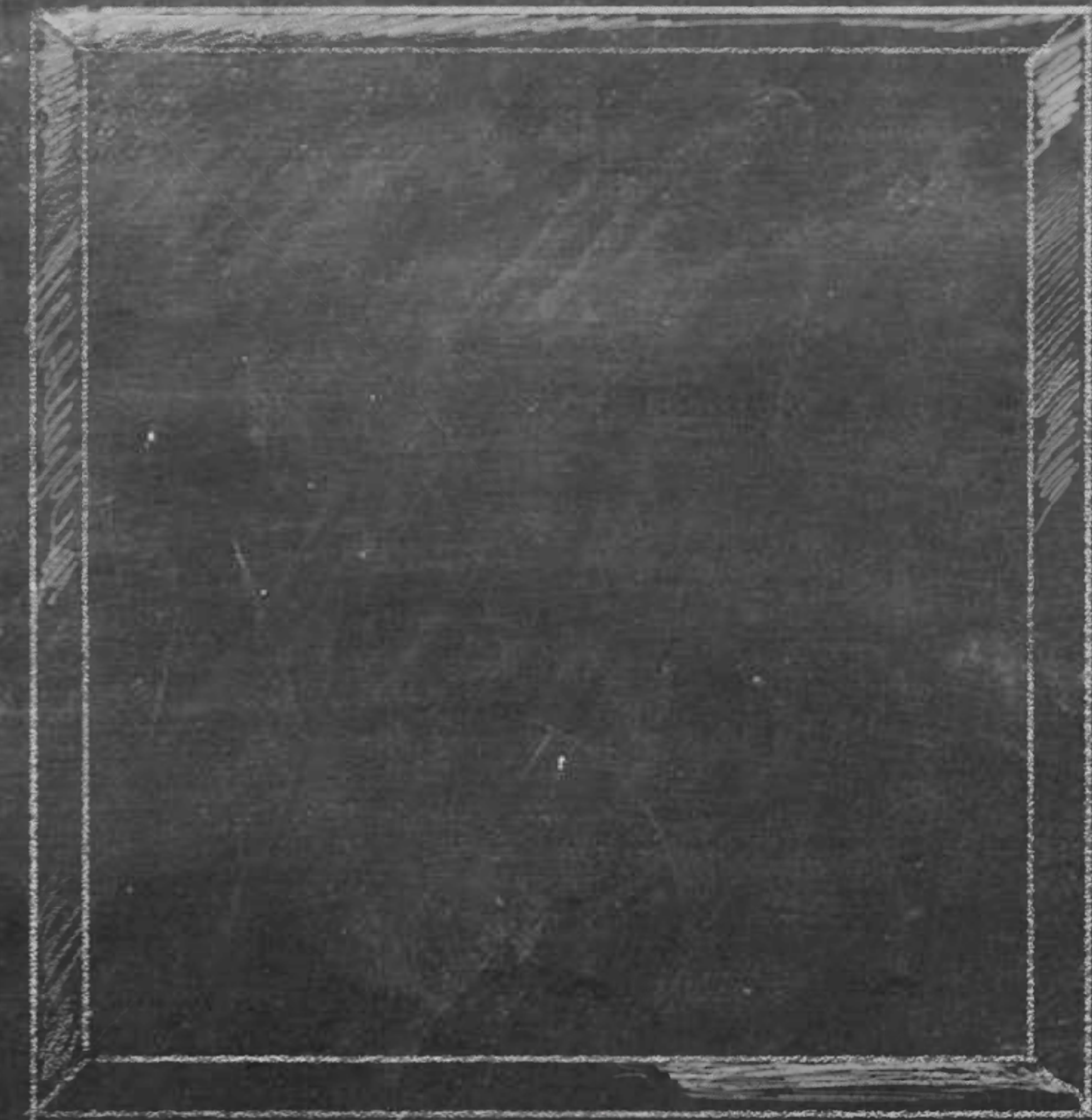
self-control

Fruit of the Holy Spirit



the Holy Spirit
equips us for the Royal Law
to be “attractively winsome”

our job is to not **quench** Him



the Holy Spirit

also makes us a people of...

hope

hope

“May the God of **hope** fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that **by the power of the Holy Spirit** you may **abound in hope**.” -Romans 15:13

“For **through the Spirit**, by faith, we ourselves eagerly wait for the **hope** of **righteousness**.”
-Galatians 5:5

“...continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the **hope** of **the gospel** that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation[a] under heaven” -Colossians 1:23

“the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the **hope** of **glory**.”
-Colossians 2:27

“...having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the **hope** of **salvation**.”
-1 Thessalonians 5:8

“...being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the **hope** of **eternal life**.”
-Titus 3:7

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a **living hope** through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.” -1 Peter 1:3

We are to be a people of

hope

a Remnant in a Land of Nought...
a land of **no** hope

“...but in your **hearts** honor Christ the Lord as holy,
always being **prepared** to **make a defense** to anyone
who asks you for a **reason** for the **hope** that is in you;
yet do it with **gentleness and respect...**” -1 Peter 3:15

When was the last time someone asked you?

Why would they?



When was the last time someone asked you?

Why would they?

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what if your neighbor is “unlovable”?



“The rule for all of us is perfectly simple. Do not waste time bothering whether you “love” your neighbor; act as if you did. As soon as we do this we find one of the great secrets. When you are behaving as if you loved someone, you will presently come to love him. If you injure someone you dislike, you will find yourself disliking him more. If you do him a good turn, you will find yourself disliking him less.” -C.S. Lewis



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their neighbors

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If we commit to do this
and **pray**,
asking God for what He wants...

He will amaze you!

