

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves the *child* born of Him.

By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and follow His commandments.

For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome. For whoever has been born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world: our faith.

Who is the one who overcomes the world, but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? This is the One who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ; not with the water only, but with the water and with the blood.

It is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. For there are three that testify: the Spirit and the water and the blood; and the three are in agreement. If we receive the testimony of people, the testimony of God is greater; for the testimony of God is this, that He has testified concerning His Son.

The one who believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself; the one who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has given concerning His Son.

And the testimony is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son.

The one who has the Son has the life; the one who does not have the Son of God does not have the life.

Old Covenant

Christ is Better



Structure of Hebrews

- Fellowship
- Walking in the Light
- Spirit of Truth/ Error
- Obedience
- Sin
- Commandments
- Reasons for Writing
- Forgiveness
- End times
- Accountability
- Enmity
- Habits

Outline

- How do I know if I'm a "loving" Christian?
- How does the love of God connect to love of others?
- What's the priority for me?
- What are today's challenges with this?

Outline

- How do I know if I'm a "loving" Christian?



**By this we know that we love the
children of God,**

when we love God

and follow His commandments.





“To Live Above

With saints we love,

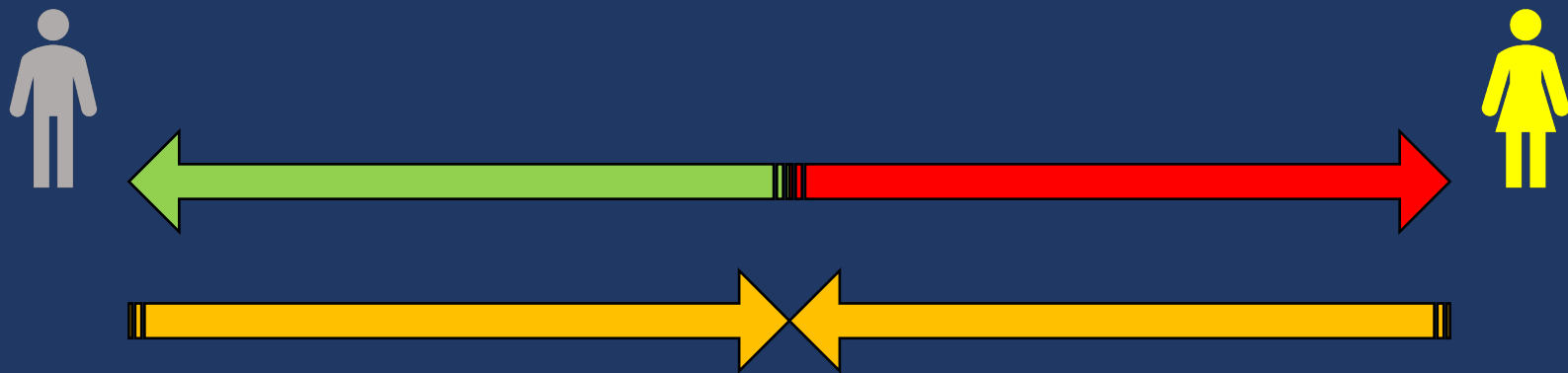
O, that will be
glory!”

“To Live below

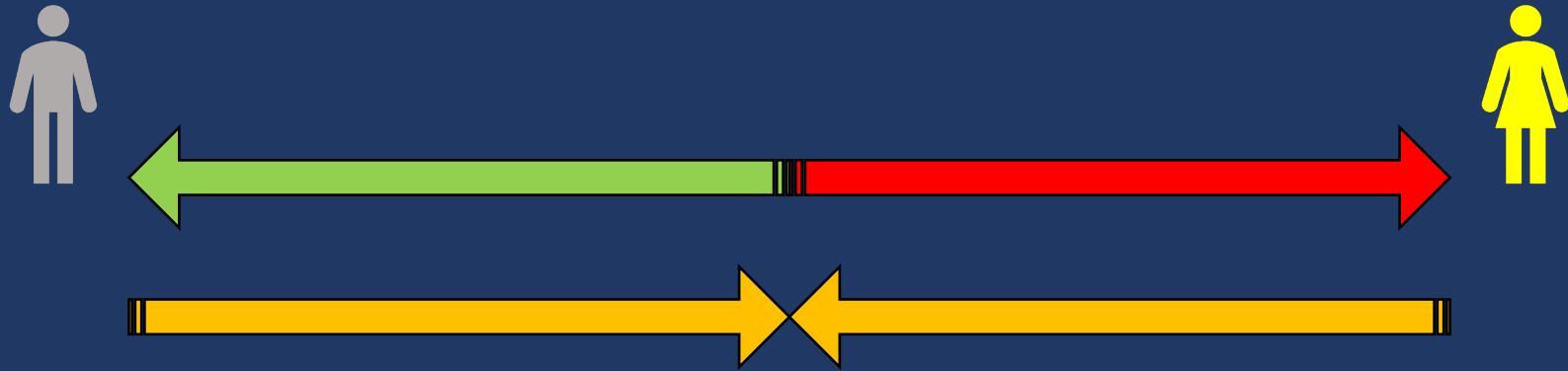
With saints we
know,

O, that’s a different
story!”

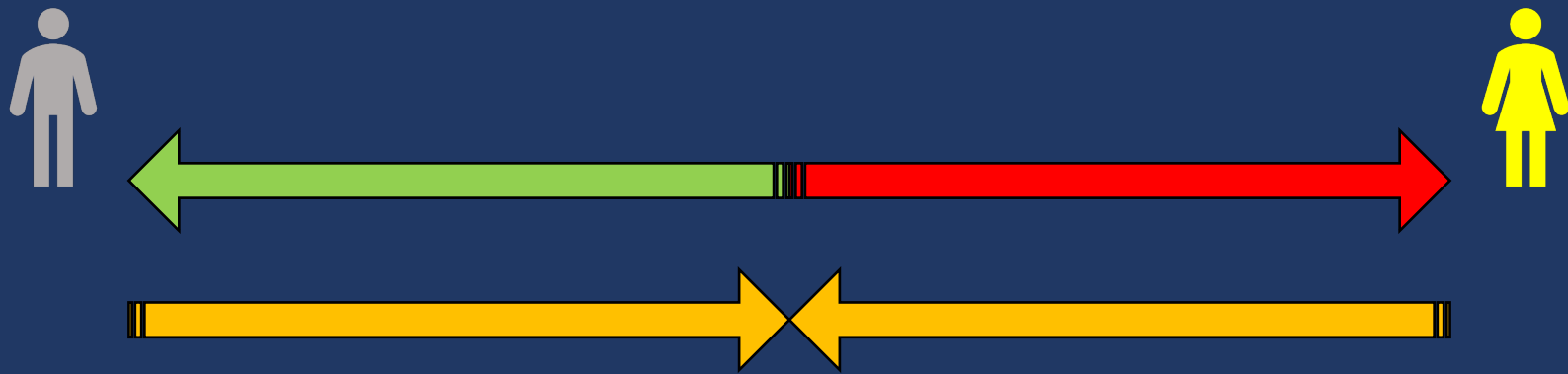




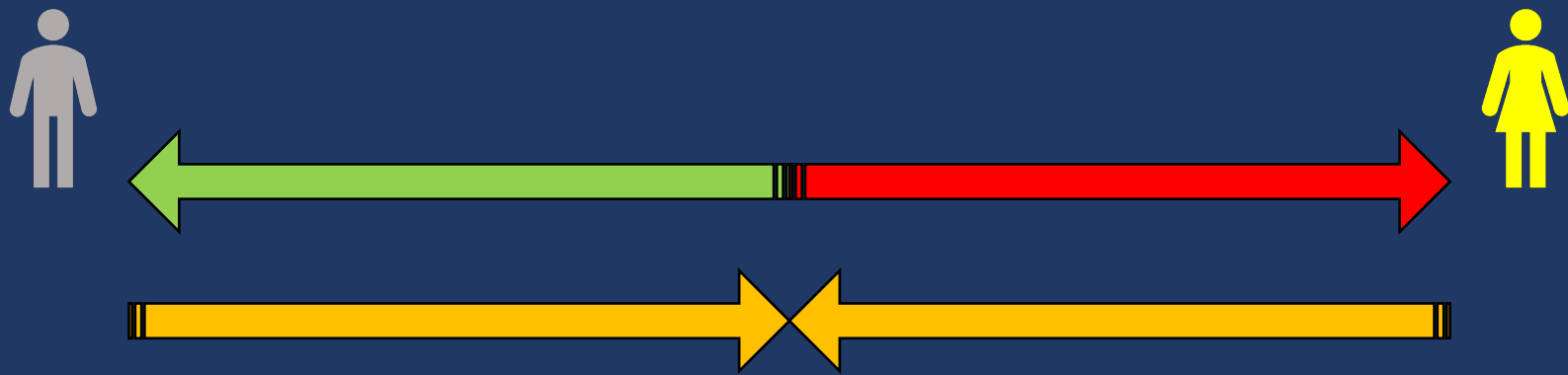
Natural, Human
Love



Political
Correctness



Rules and Laws



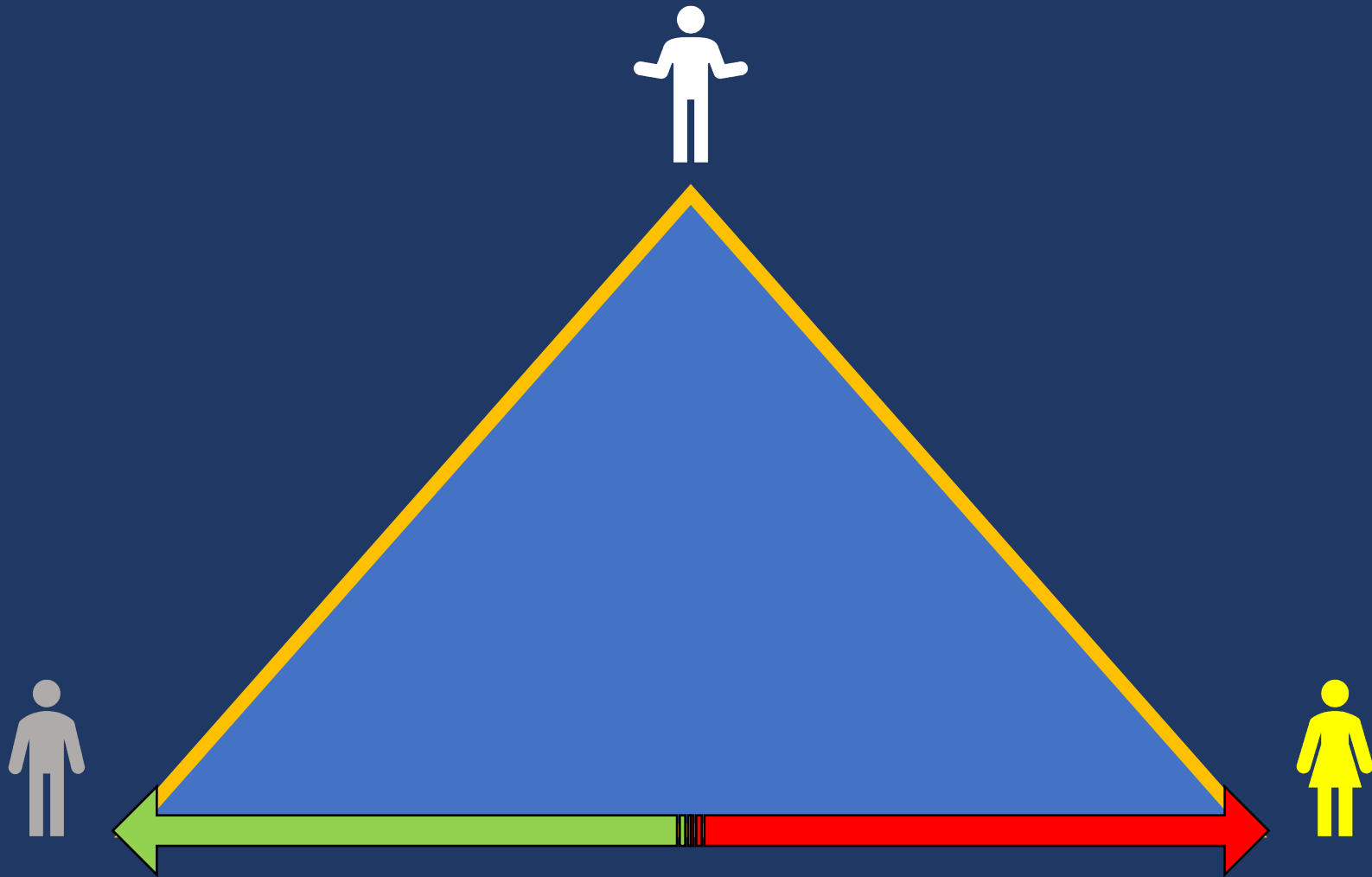
Social
Tolerance

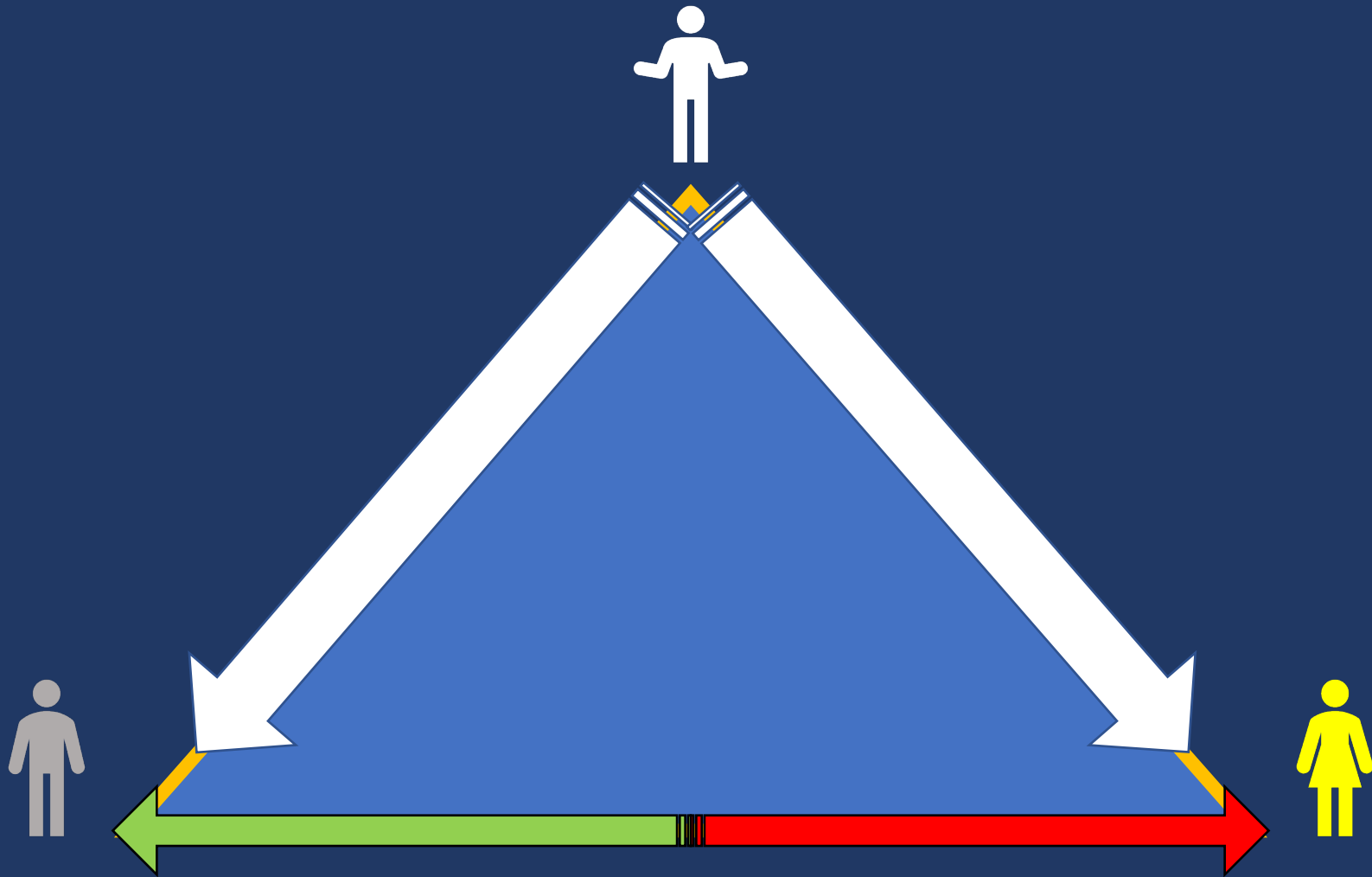


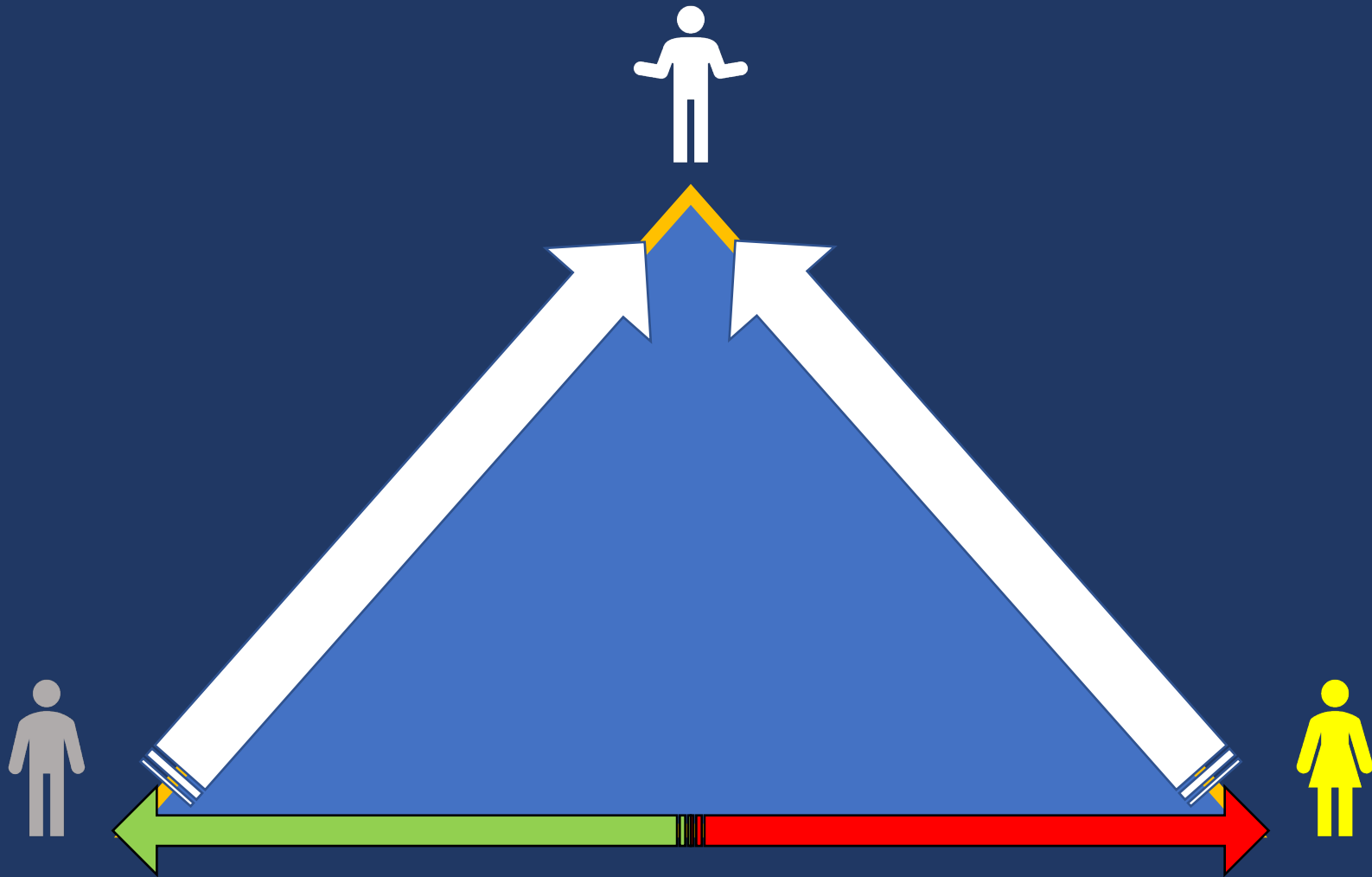
Outline

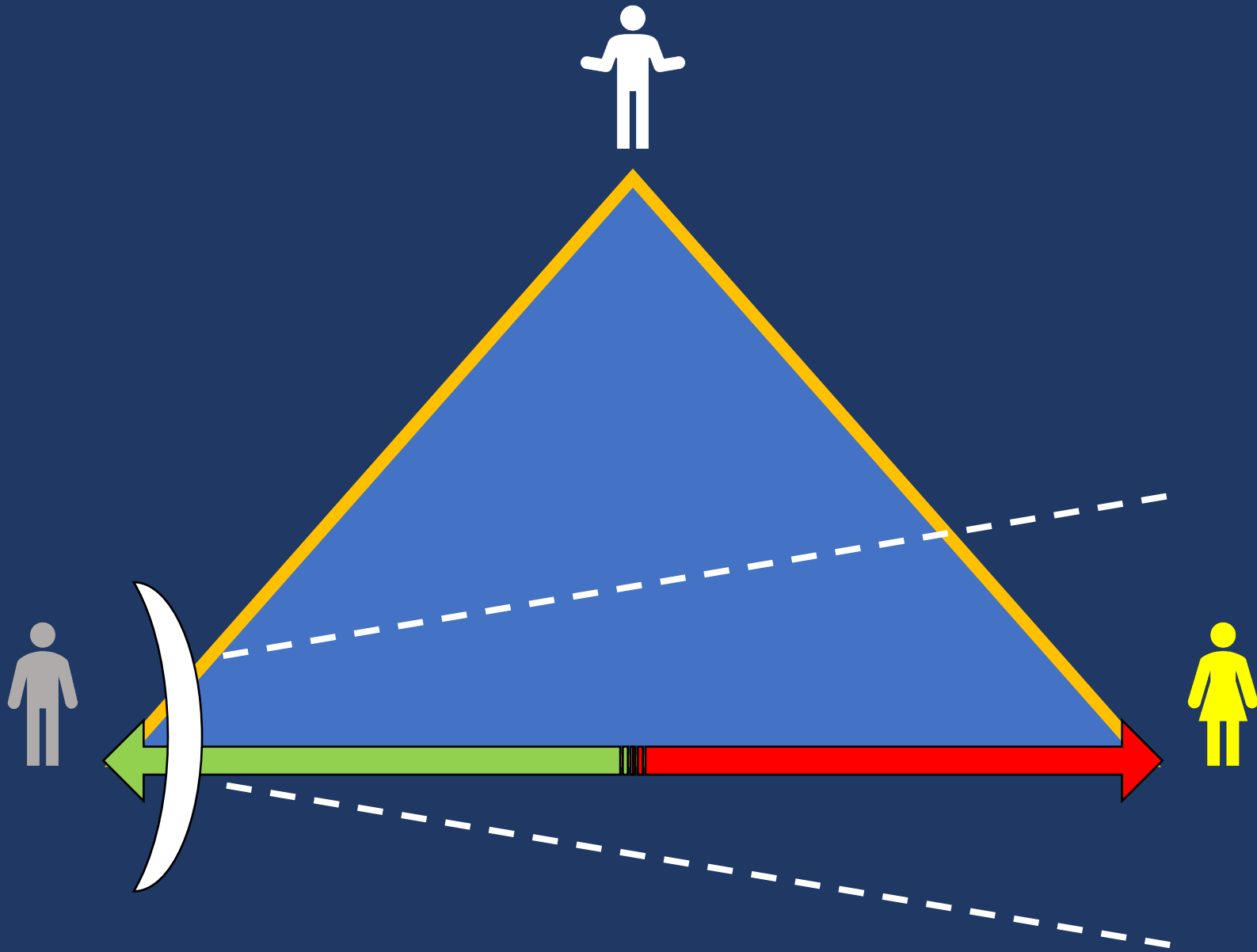
- How does the love of God connect to love of others?

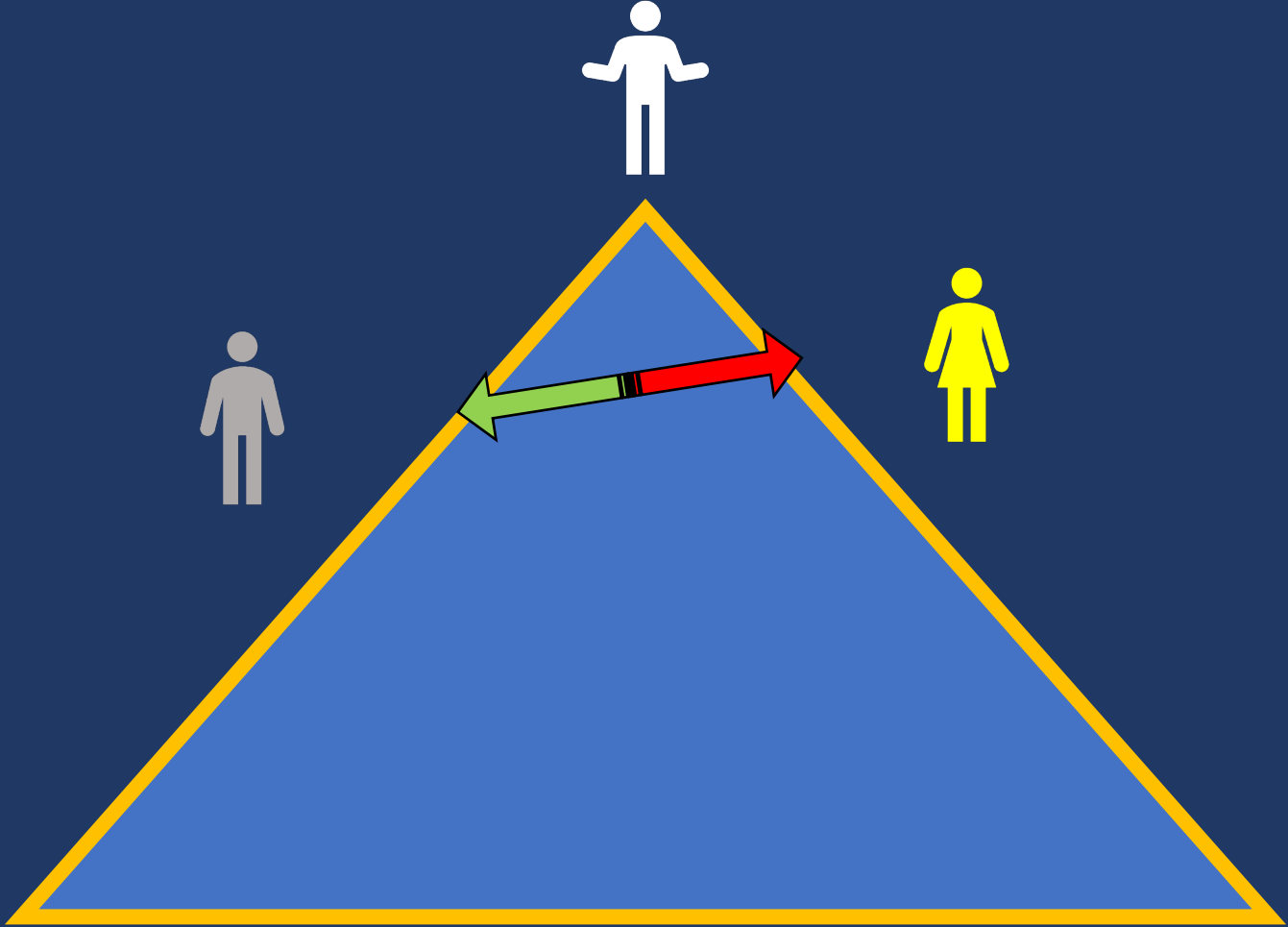












- *We love Him because He first loved us.*
- *Receiving such love releases me from selfishness, and redirects me to becoming Christlike.*
- *This reorients my view of others... they are for Him, not me.*
- *I desire that He should have them, and they should have Him.*
- *I respond gratefully and wholeheartedly to his commandment to help them be His, at all costs.*

Outline

- What's the priority for me?

PRIORITIES

1.

2.

3.



“I am giving you a new commandment, that you love one another; **just as I have loved you**, that you also **love one another.**”

“By this all will know that you are **My** disciples: if you have **love for one another.**”

John 13:34-35



Love is “Commanded”?

This is His commandment, that we **believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ,**

and **love one another,** just as He commanded us.

(1 John 3:23)

The Two Great Commandments:

1. Love the Lord your God...
2. And your neighbour as yourself.

In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son *to be* the propitiation for our sins.

Beloved, **IF GOD SO LOVED US**, we also ought to love one another.

(1 John 4:10-11)

Genuine love is always a byproduct
of love for God.

(1 John 4:7 – “...love is of God...”)

If it is not a product of love for
God, then it is not **Christian** love.

To love anybody

**Is actually to care more about promoting
their relationship with God**

Than to care what they think about you.

“Love...does not seek its own...” (1 Cor. 13:5)

Practical Bit

- Today, most people who speak of “love” tend not to follow the Biblical order.
- Today’s thinking places love for God in conflict with love for others.
- If I stop putting the Lord first, I’ve stopped loving others.

Outline

- **What are today's challenges with this?**

Love of others can be
evidence
of our love for God,

Love of others is
evidence
of our love for God,

but love of others can never
take **precedence**
Over our love for God.

Love of God must come before: *Respectability*

Then the disciples came and said to Him, “Do You know that the Pharisees were offended when they heard this statement?”

But He answered and said, “Every plant which My heavenly Father did not plant will be uprooted. Leave them alone; they are blind guides of blind people. And if a person who is blind guides *another* who is blind, both will fall into a pit.” (Matt. 15:12-14)

Love of God must come before: *Authorities*

When they had brought them, they had them stand before the Council. The high priest interrogated them, saying, “We gave you strict orders not to continue teaching in this name, and yet, you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching...”

But Peter and the apostles answered, “We must obey God rather than men.” (Acts 5:27-29)

Love of God must come before: *Friendship*

Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, “God forbid it, Lord! This shall never happen to You!”

But He turned and said to Peter, “Get behind Me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to Me; for you are not setting your mind on God’s purposes, but men’s.” **(Matt. 16:22-24)**

Love of God must come before: *Family*

“The one who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me; and the one who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. And the one who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me...” (Matthew 10:37-38)

“And brother will betray brother to death, and a father *his* child; and children will rise up against parents and have them put to death. And you will be hated by everyone because of My name, but it is the one who has endured to the end who will be saved.” (Mark 13:12-13)

Love of God must even come before: *Religion*

“I stand at the door and knock...

...if anyone...” **(Rev. 3:20)**



“I have decided to follow Jesus...”

“Though none go with me
Still I will follow...”