



Meaning | Satisfaction | Freedom | Self | Identity | Hope | Morality | Justice

MAKING SENSE OF GOD

Kevin Timmons | Scott Sears | 7:15 pm | Wednesdays | July 8 – August 5



The Heart Is Like a Compass

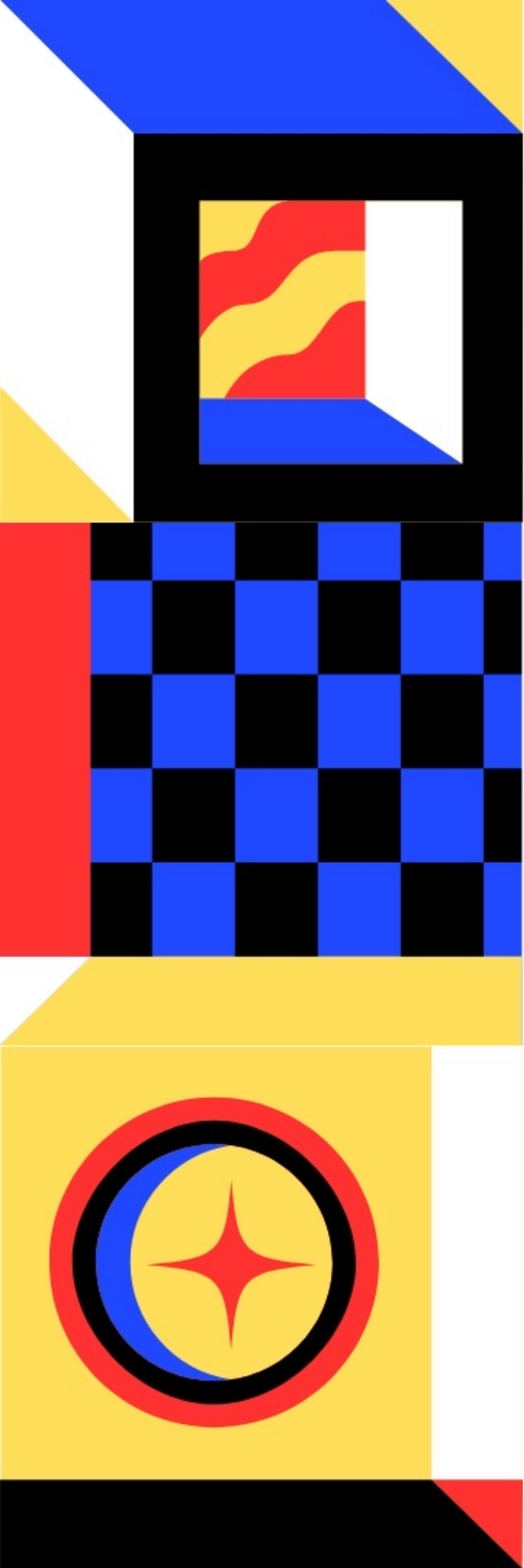
- What is the purpose of the Heart?
- How do we care for the heart?
- What happens the heart is not in tune with the true north?
- How do we re-calibrate our hearts?

Over the next week...

- Take an audit of your daily routines/practices.
(List out activities, habits, inputs, influencers)
- What is influencing your heart & mind?
- What vision do you have for/of the good life?
- How are you being carried by/in the practices that you do toward that vision of the good life?

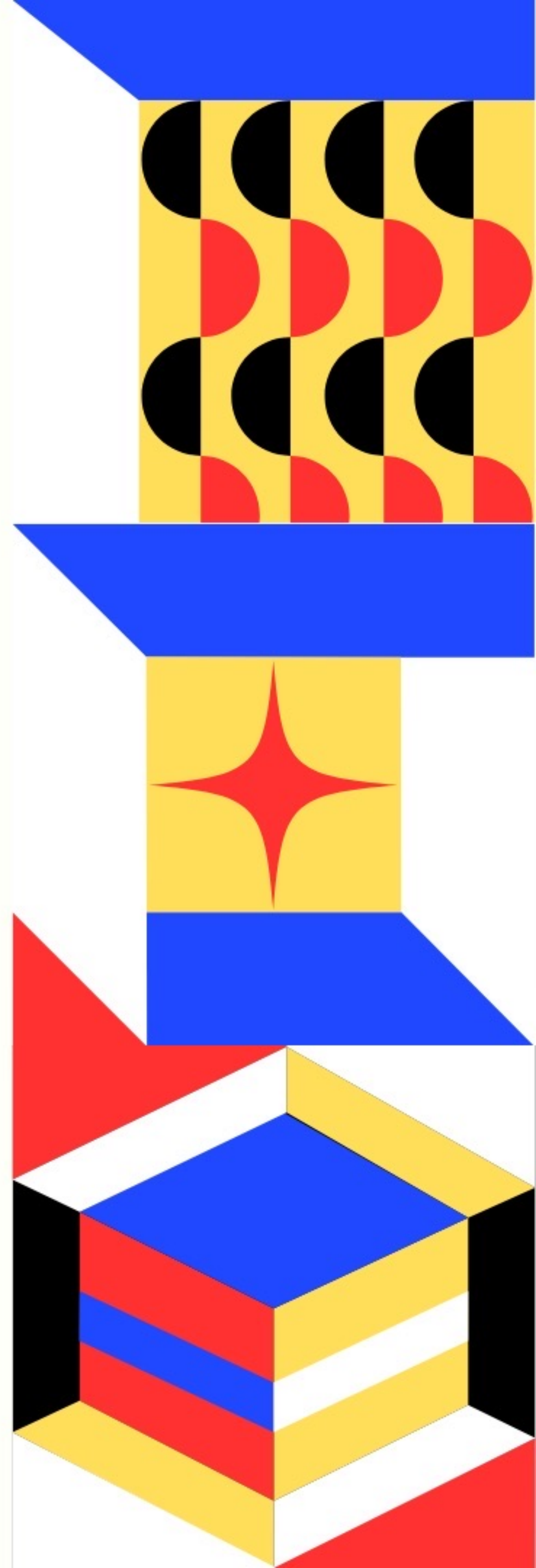
The slide features abstract geometric patterns on the left and right sides. The left side includes a blue and yellow diagonal pattern at the top left, a black square containing a red and yellow wavy pattern, a blue and black checkerboard pattern, and a yellow square with a red and blue circular design. The right side includes a yellow and black pattern with semi-circles, a blue horizontal band, a yellow square with a red star, a blue trapezoid, and a complex geometric design at the bottom right with blue, red, yellow, and black elements.

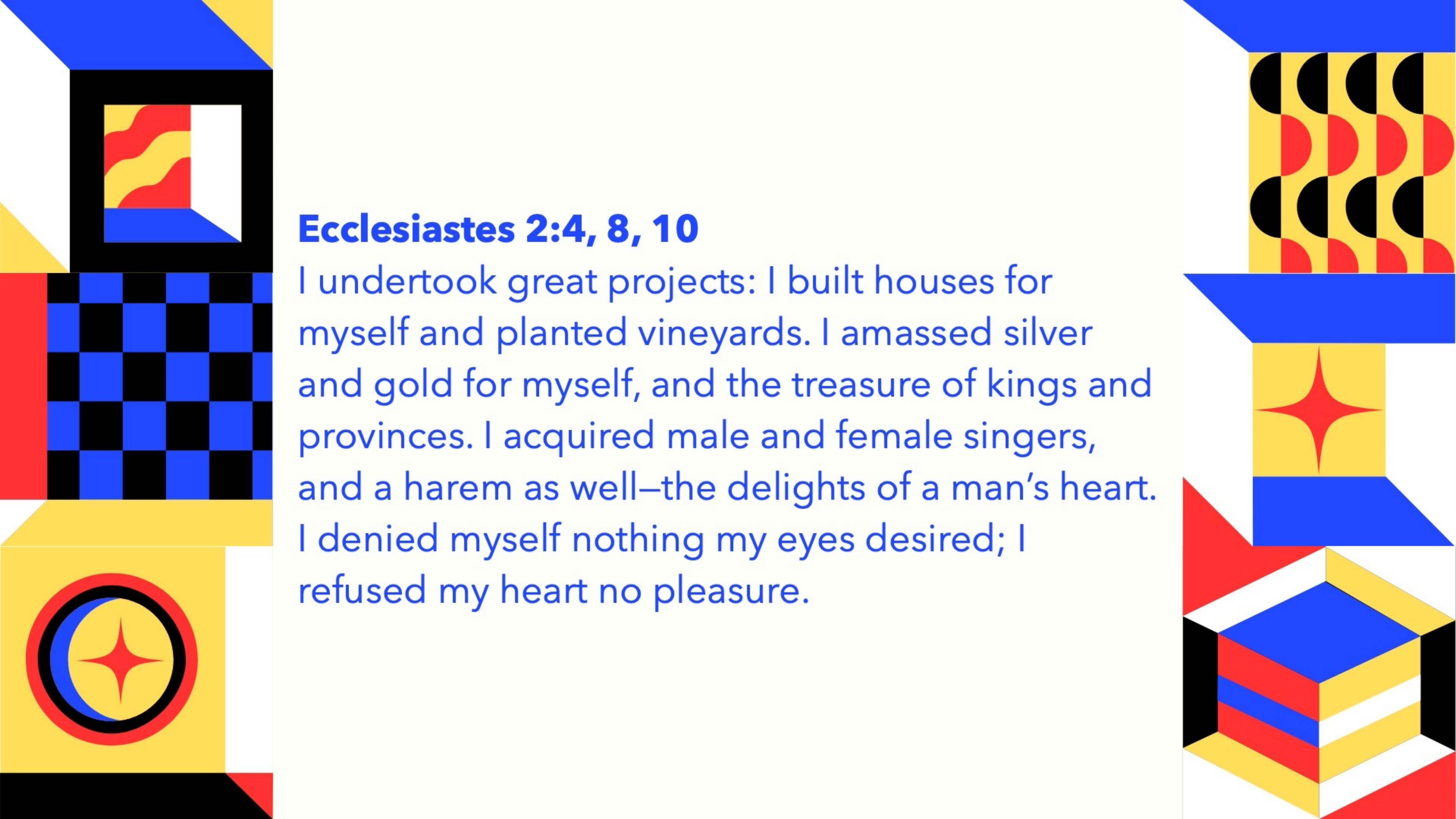
Satisfaction



Satisfaction

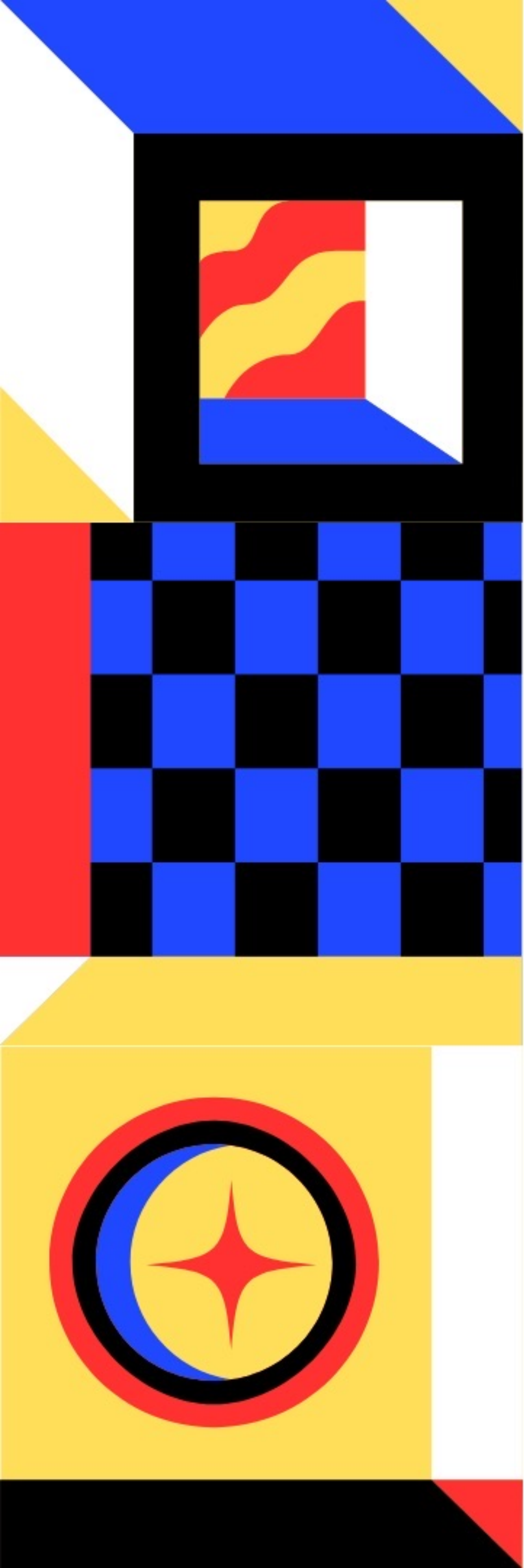
- Duration
- Depth





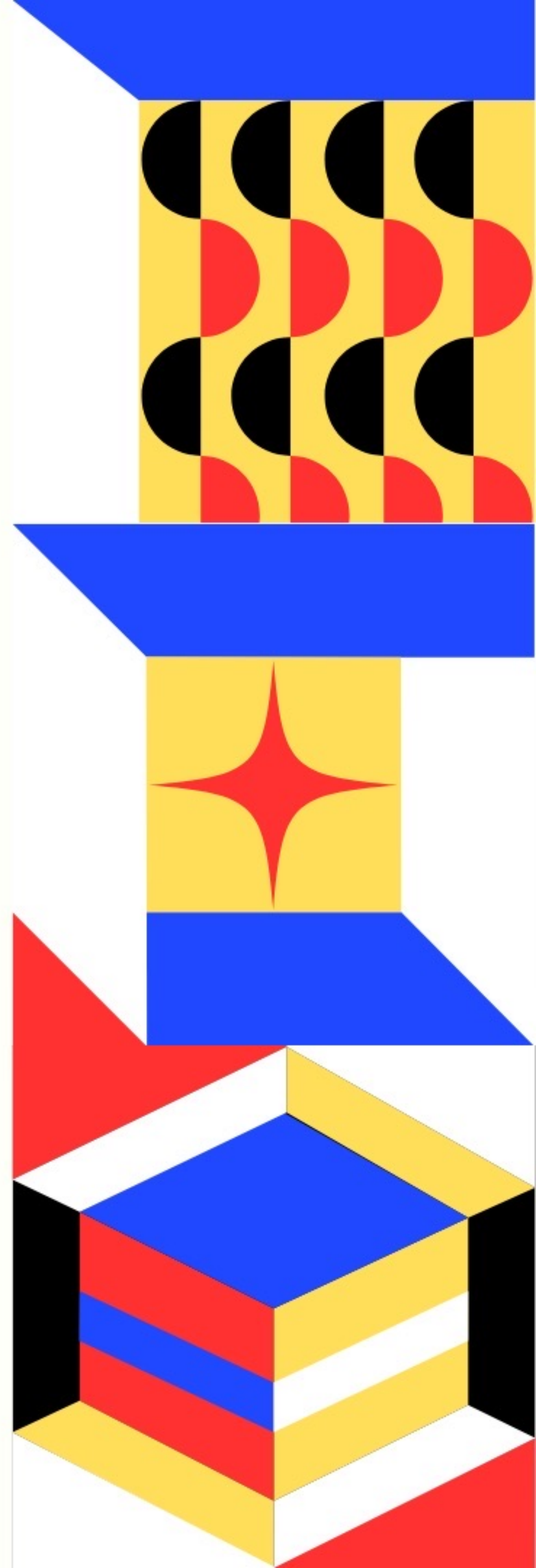
Ecclesiastes 2:4, 8, 10

I undertook great projects: I built houses for myself and planted vineyards. I amassed silver and gold for myself, and the treasure of kings and provinces. I acquired male and female singers, and a harem as well—the delights of a man's heart. I denied myself nothing my eyes desired; I refused my heart no pleasure.



Ecclesiastes 2:17, 20

So I hated life, because the work that is done under the sun was grievous to me. All of it is meaningless, a chasing after the wind. So my heart began to despair over all my toilsome labor under the sun.



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World Happiness Report (147 Countries)

- USA ranked #23



World Happiness Report (147 Countries)

- USA ranked #23
- Finland ranked #1

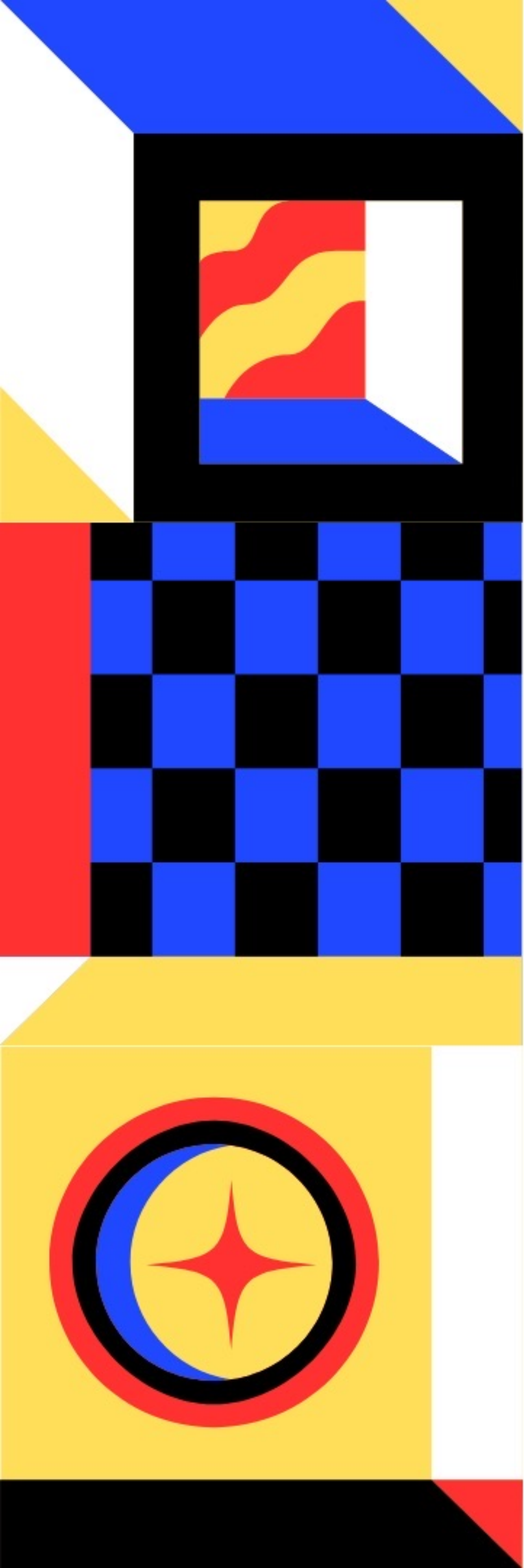
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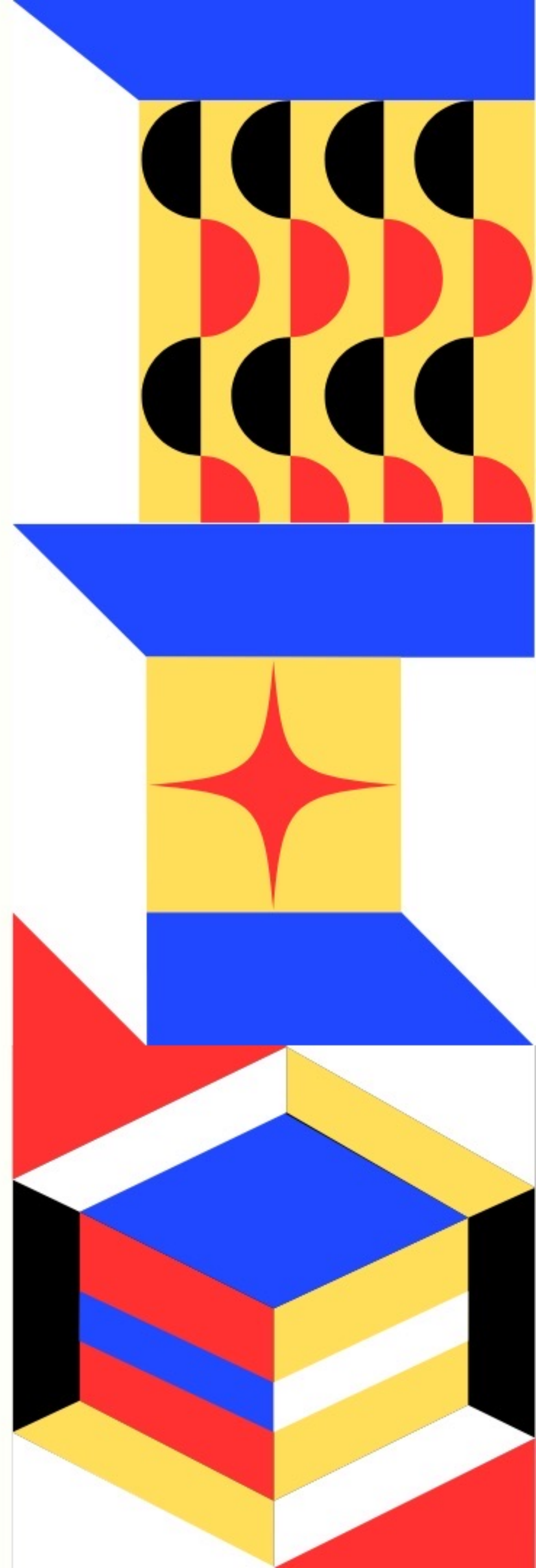
Suicide Rate (out of 183 countries)

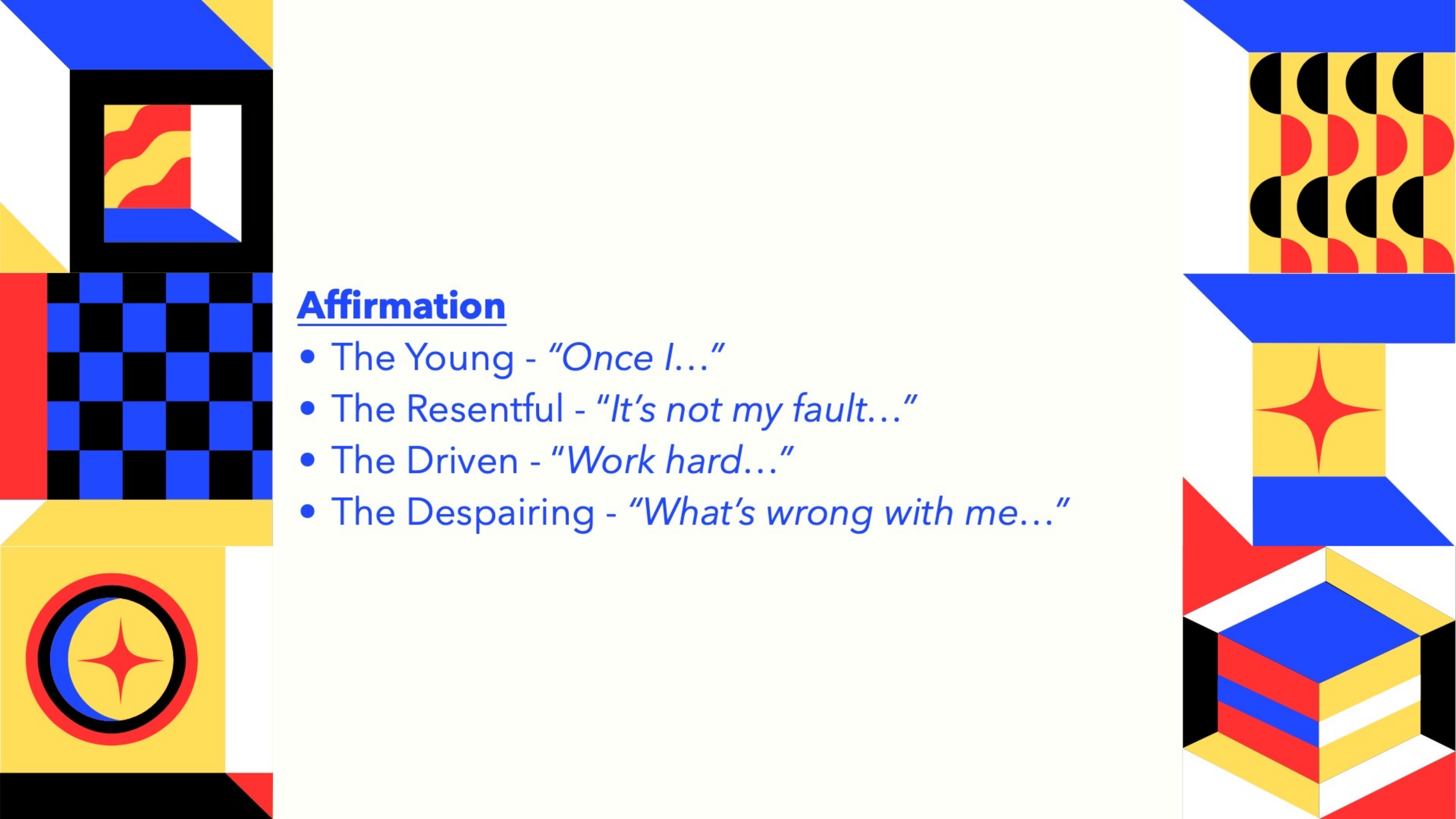
- United States ranked #24
- Finland ranked #32



Two Basic Strategies (credit: Alan Noble)

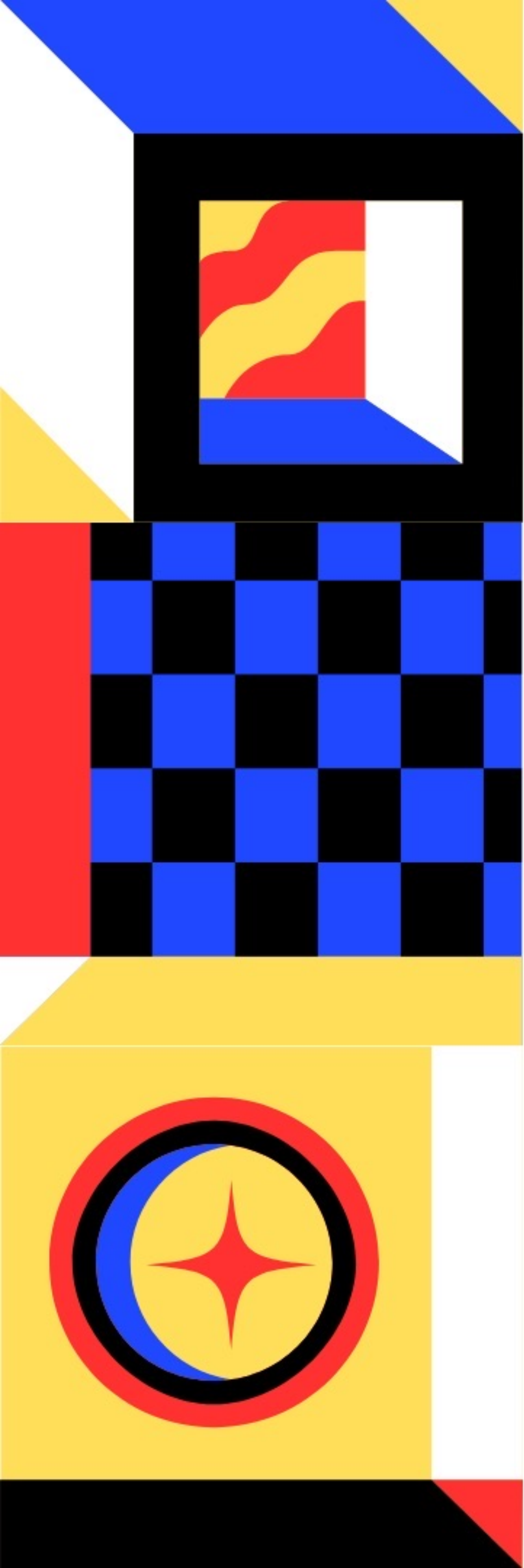
- Affirmation - Satisfaction is possible
- Resignation - Satisfaction is not possible





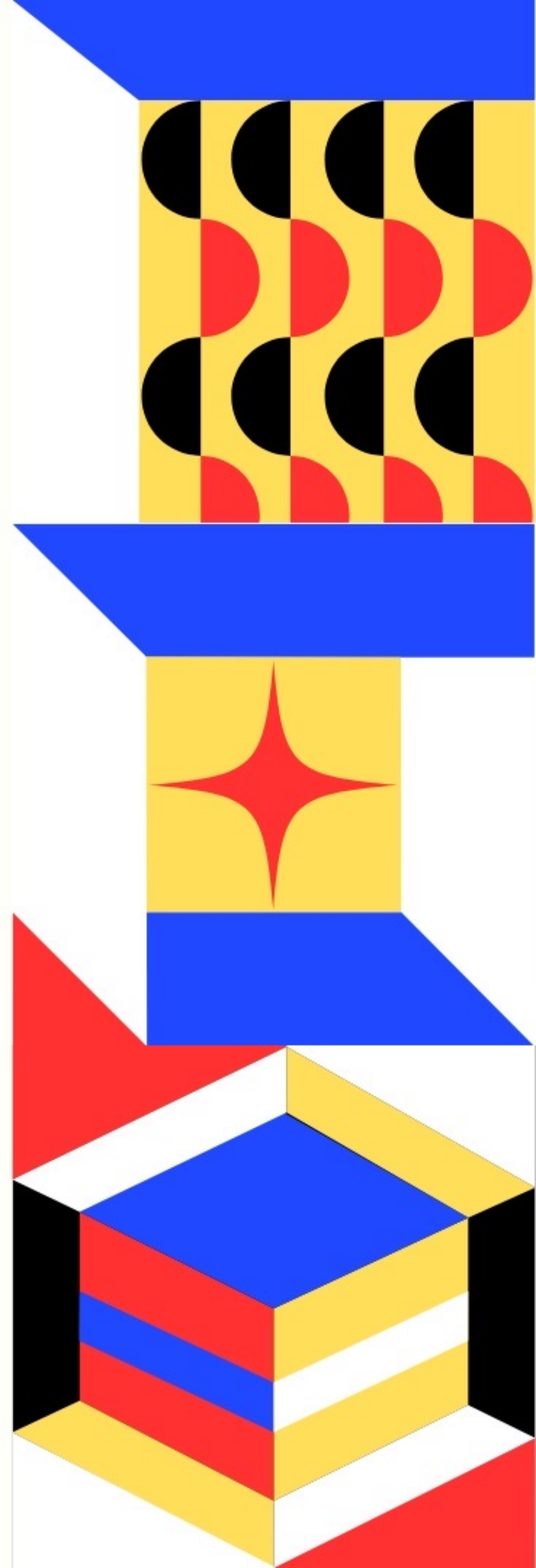
Affirmation

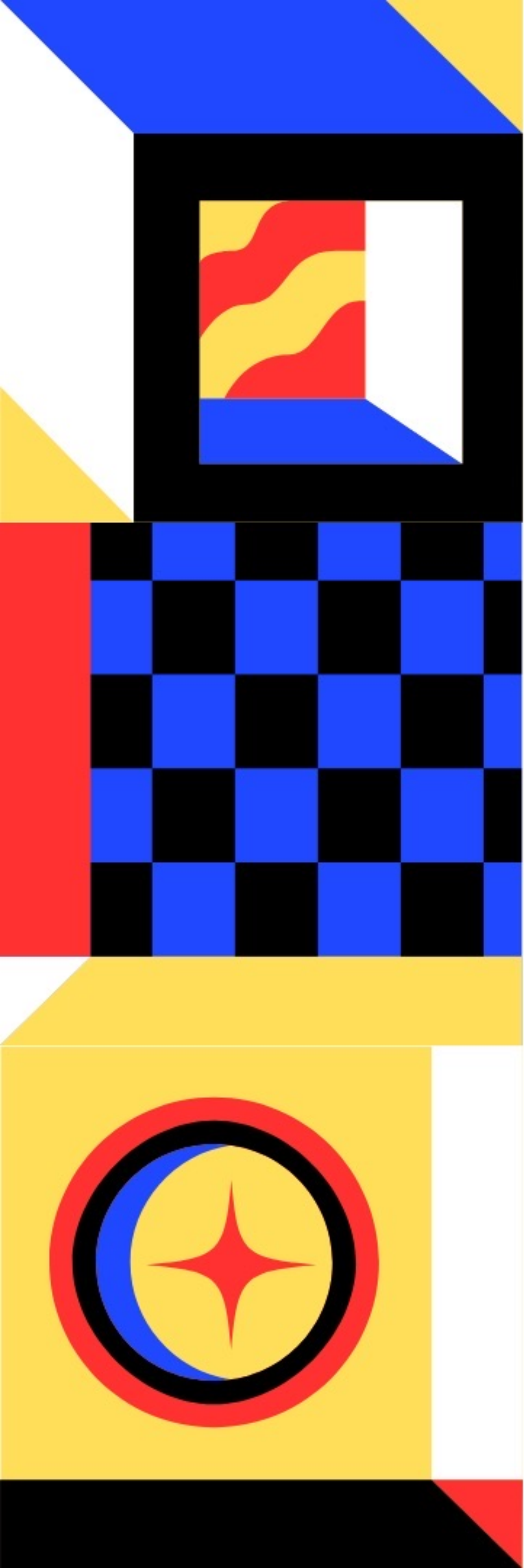
- The Young - *"Once I..."*
- The Resentful - *"It's not my fault..."*
- The Driven - *"Work hard..."*
- The Despairing - *"What's wrong with me..."*



Resignation

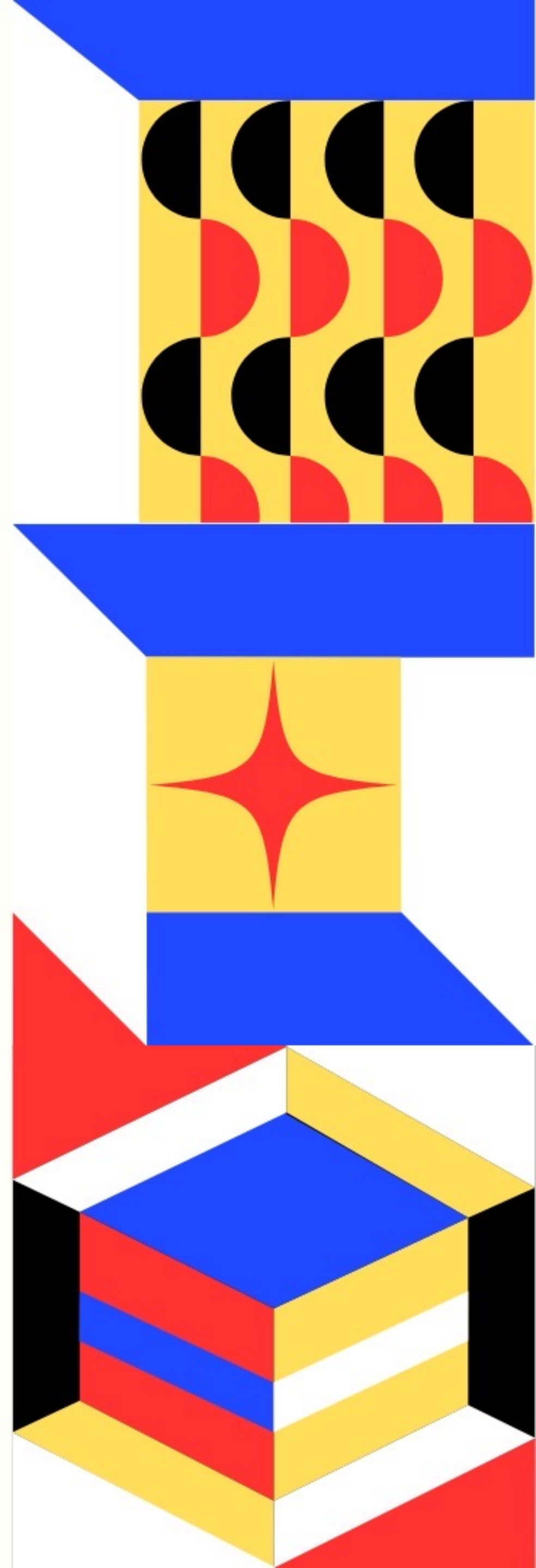
- Altruism - *"I tried affirmation, but now..."*
- Cynicism - *"Only stupid people try..."*
- Detachment - *"I must desire nothing..."*

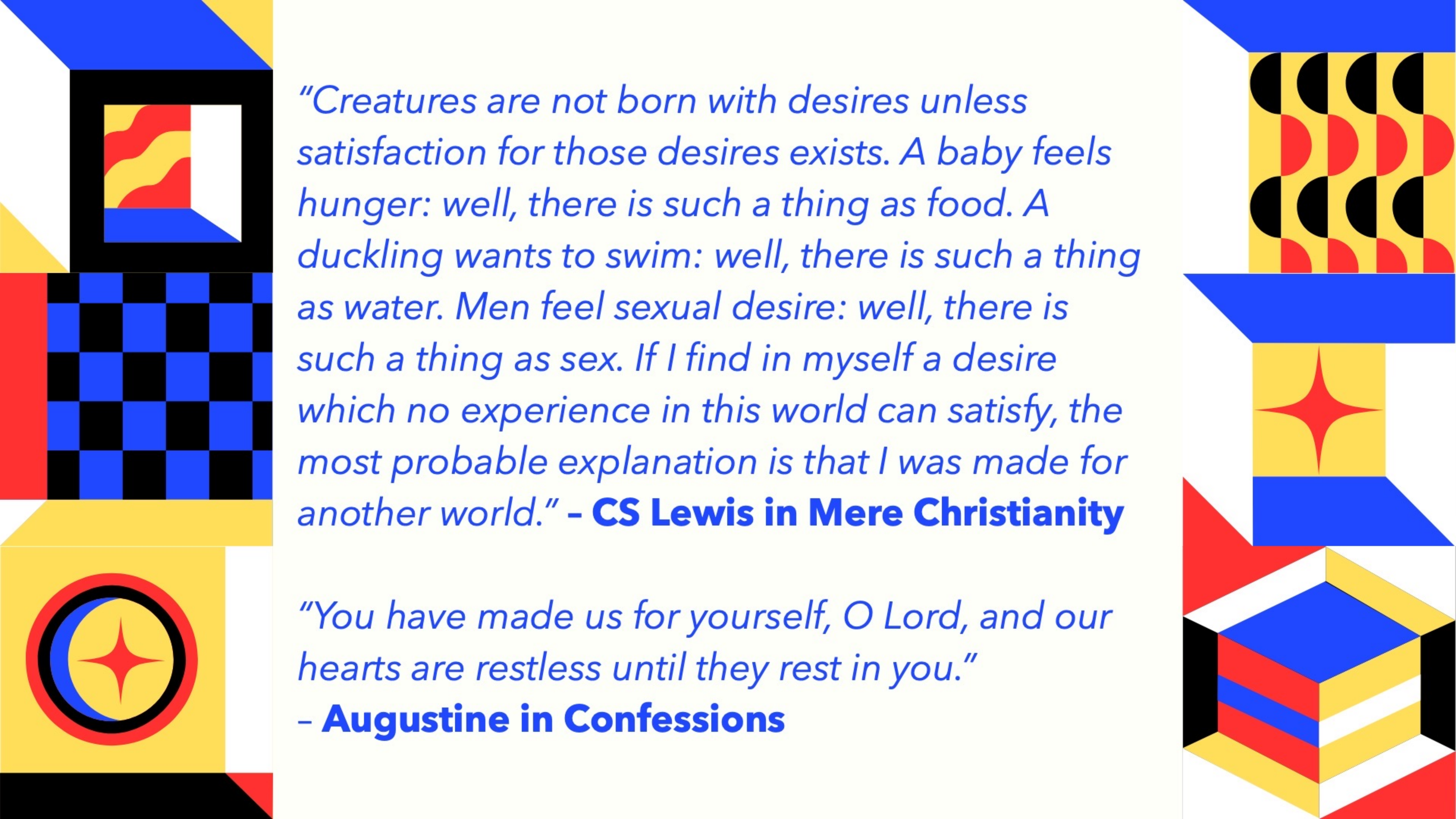




Christianity's Answer

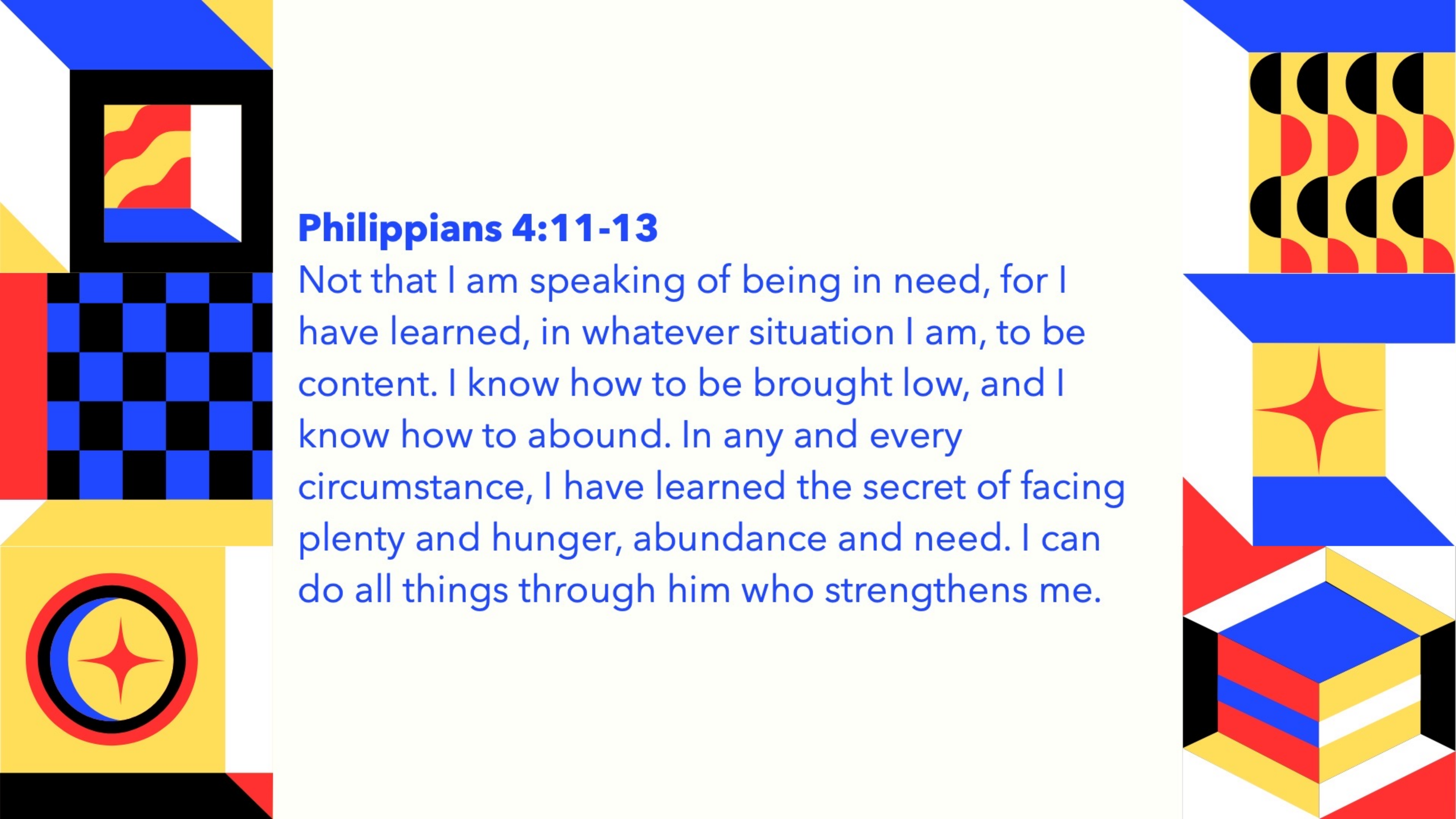
- It does exist
- It is not of this world





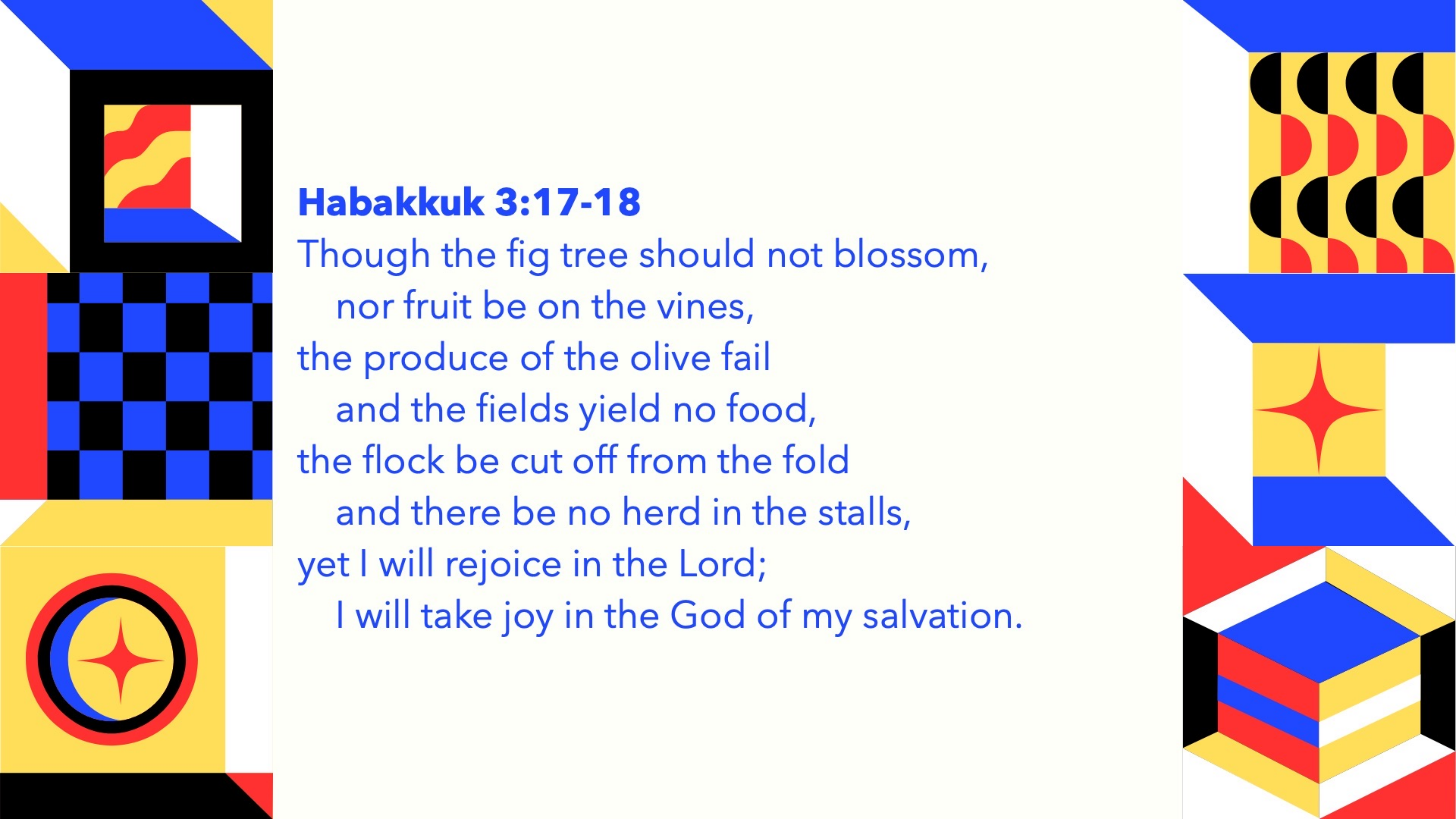
"Creatures are not born with desires unless satisfaction for those desires exists. A baby feels hunger: well, there is such a thing as food. A duckling wants to swim: well, there is such a thing as water. Men feel sexual desire: well, there is such a thing as sex. If I find in myself a desire which no experience in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that I was made for another world." - **CS Lewis in Mere Christianity**

"You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you."
- **Augustine in Confessions**



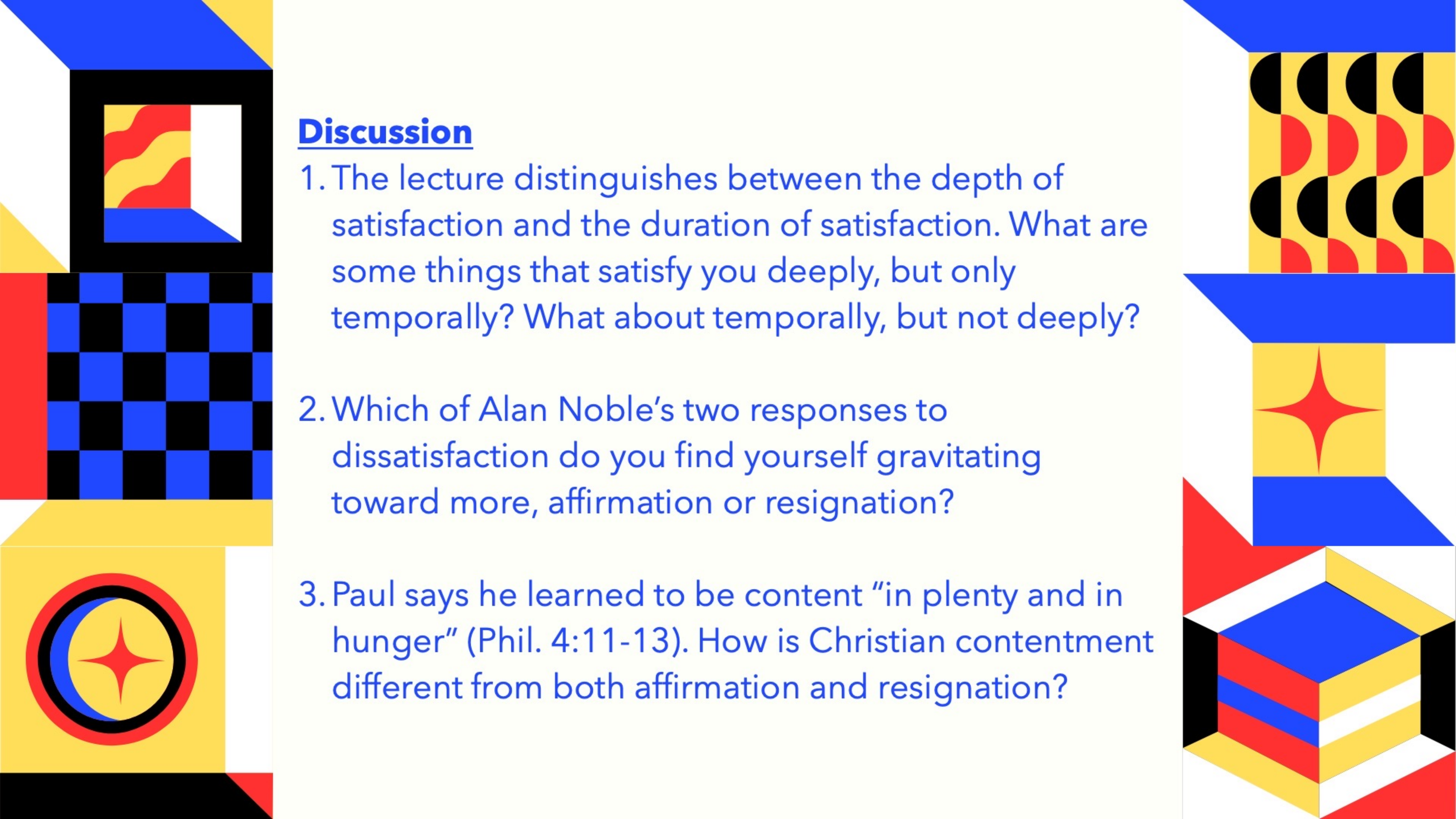
Philippians 4:11-13

Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned, in whatever situation I am, to be content. I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

The page features decorative geometric patterns on the left and right margins. The left margin includes a blue and yellow triangle at the top, a black square with a red and yellow wavy pattern, a blue and black checkerboard, and a yellow square with a red and blue circular design. The right margin includes a yellow square with black and red semi-circles, a blue trapezoid, a yellow square with a red star, a blue trapezoid, and a 3D cube with blue, red, and yellow faces.

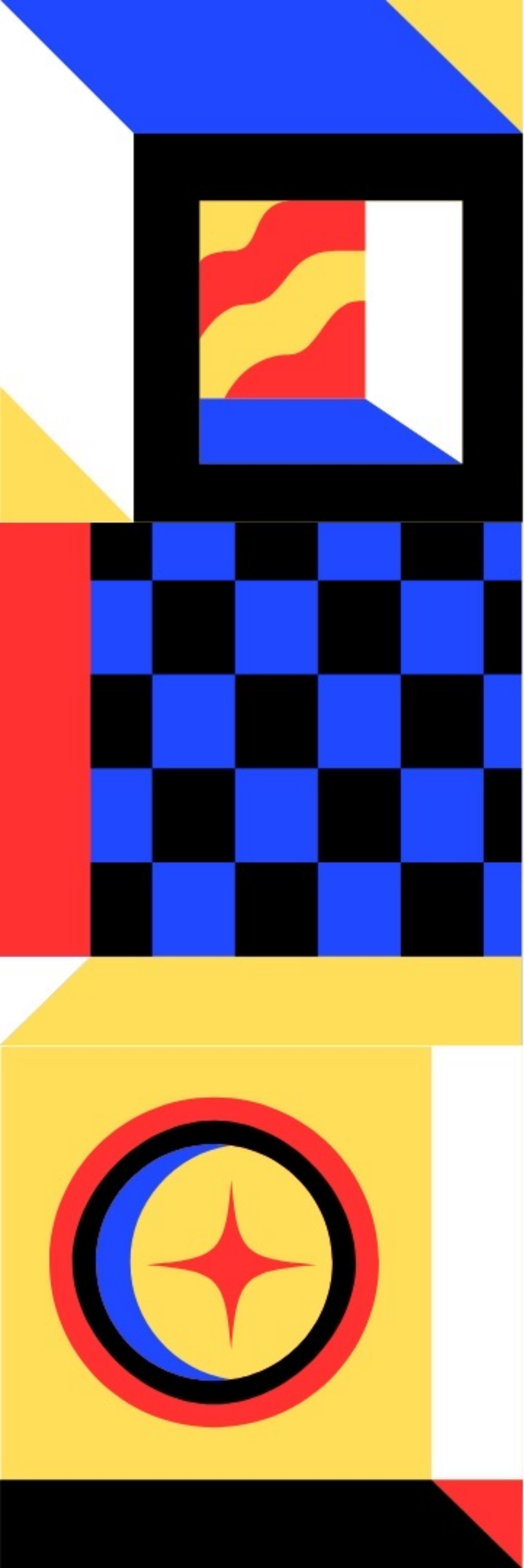
Habakkuk 3:17-18

Though the fig tree should not blossom,
nor fruit be on the vines,
the produce of the olive fail
and the fields yield no food,
the flock be cut off from the fold
and there be no herd in the stalls,
yet I will rejoice in the Lord;
I will take joy in the God of my salvation.

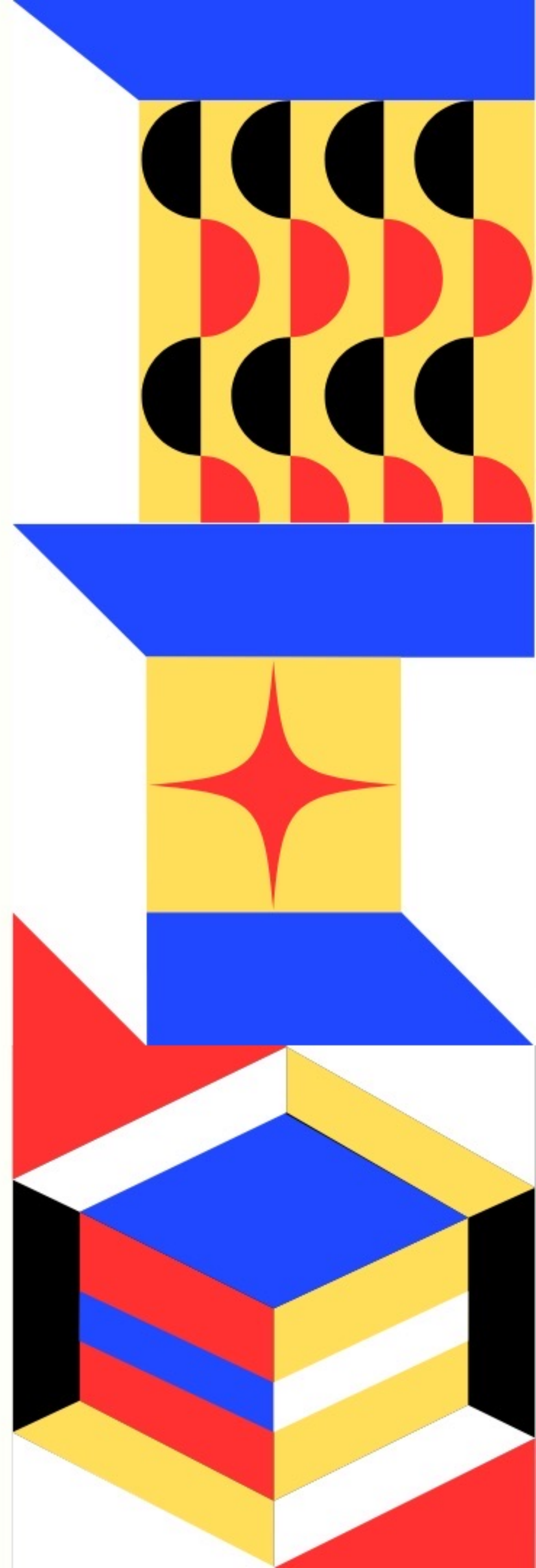


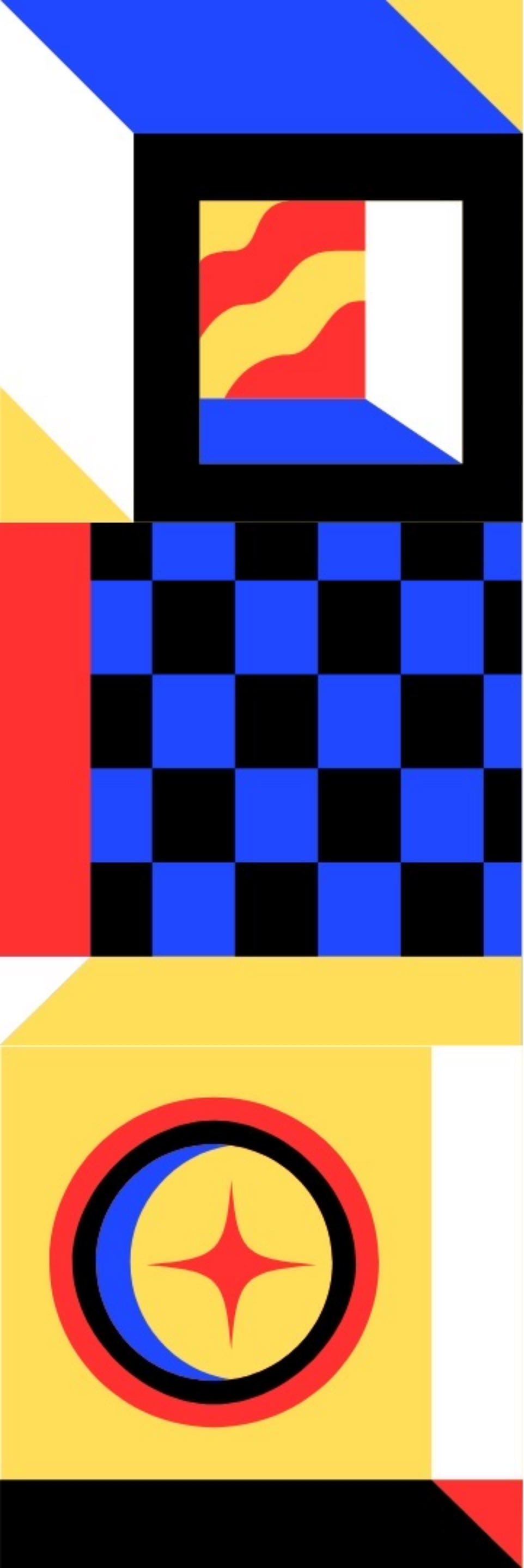
Discussion

1. The lecture distinguishes between the depth of satisfaction and the duration of satisfaction. What are some things that satisfy you deeply, but only temporally? What about temporally, but not deeply?
2. Which of Alan Noble's two responses to dissatisfaction do you find yourself gravitating toward more, affirmation or resignation?
3. Paul says he learned to be content "in plenty and in hunger" (Phil. 4:11-13). How is Christian contentment different from both affirmation and resignation?



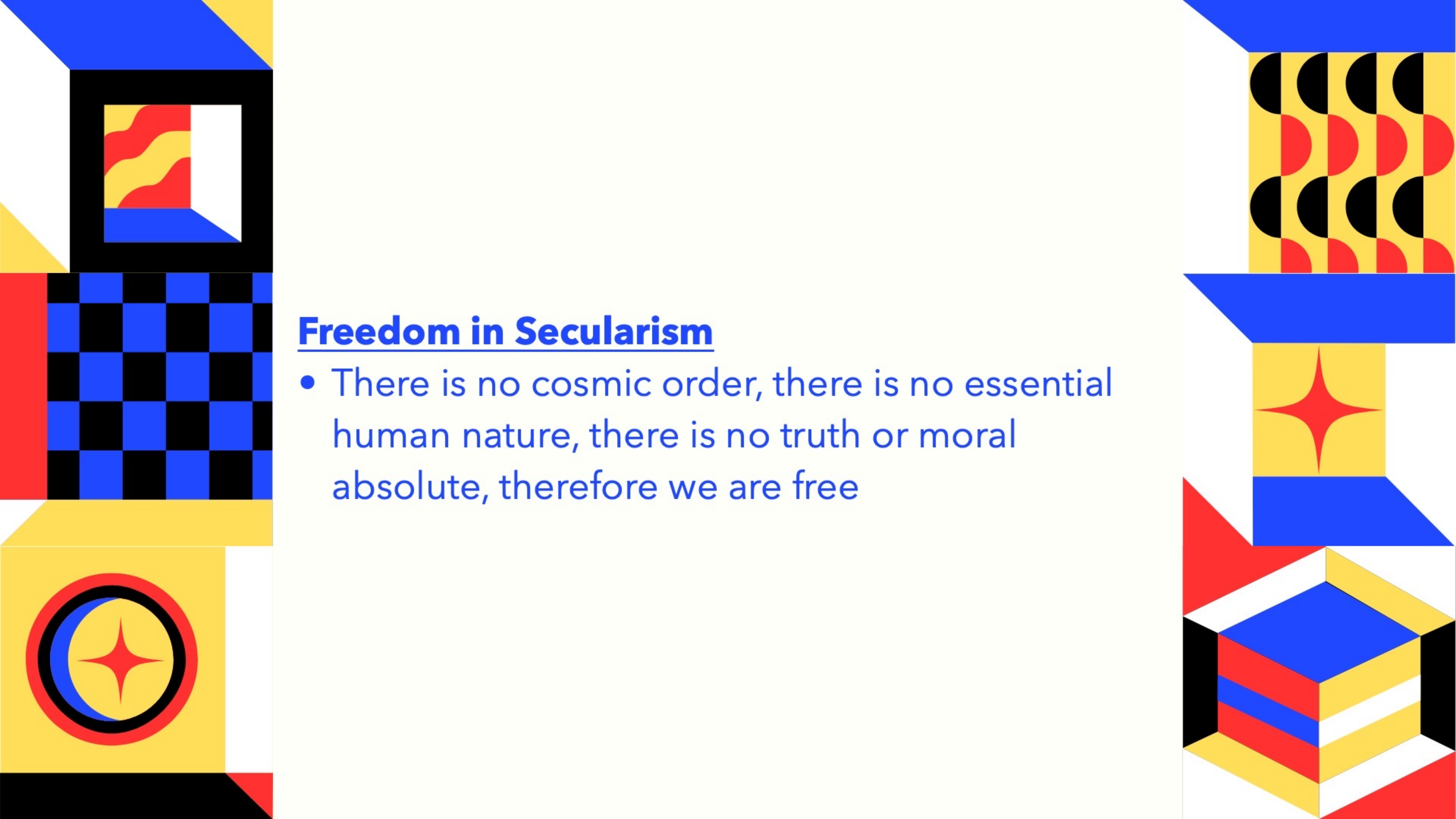
Freedom





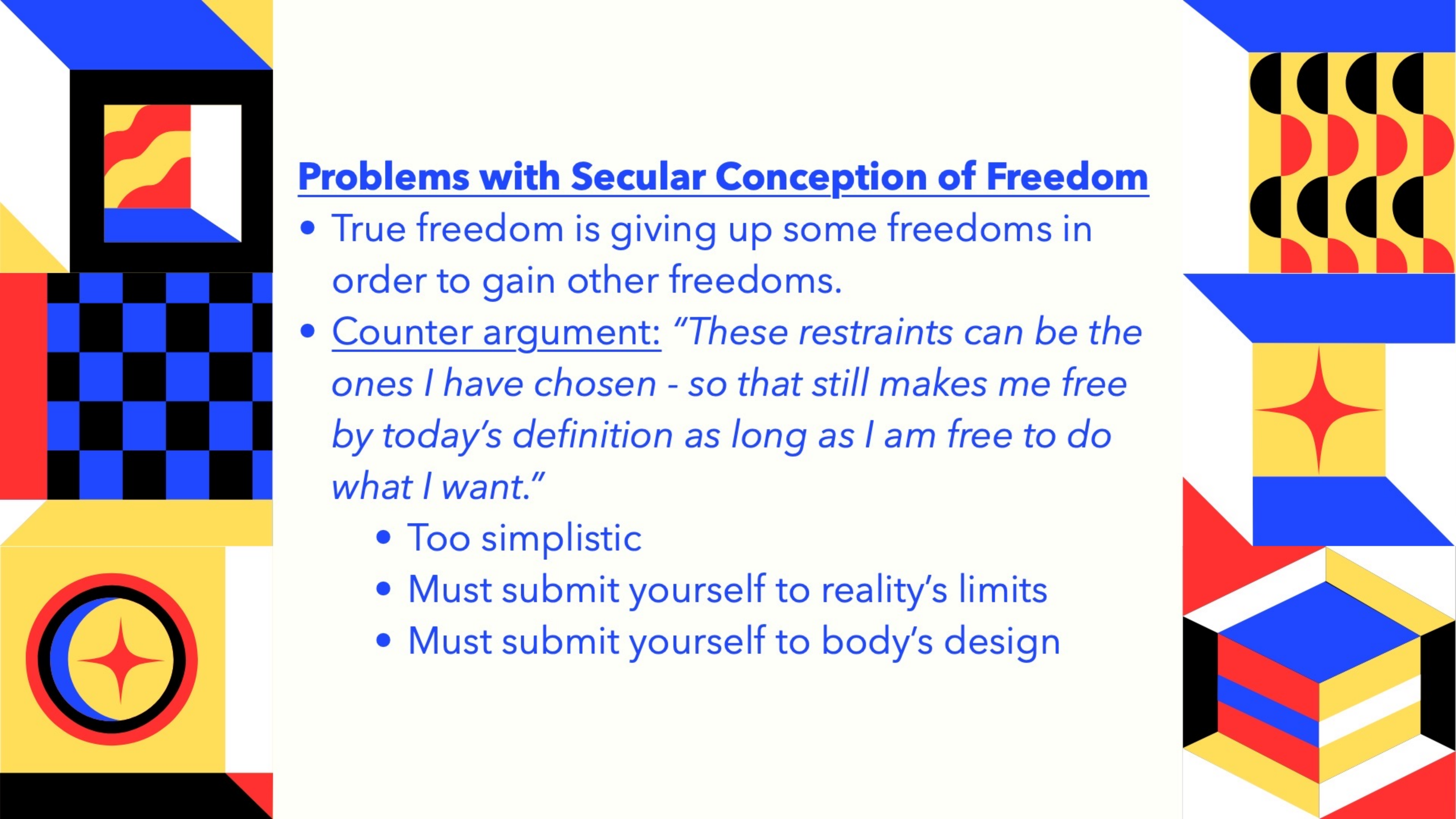
Freedom at Founding of the United States

- Right of governed to choose who governs them
 - All men are created equal and endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights
- 



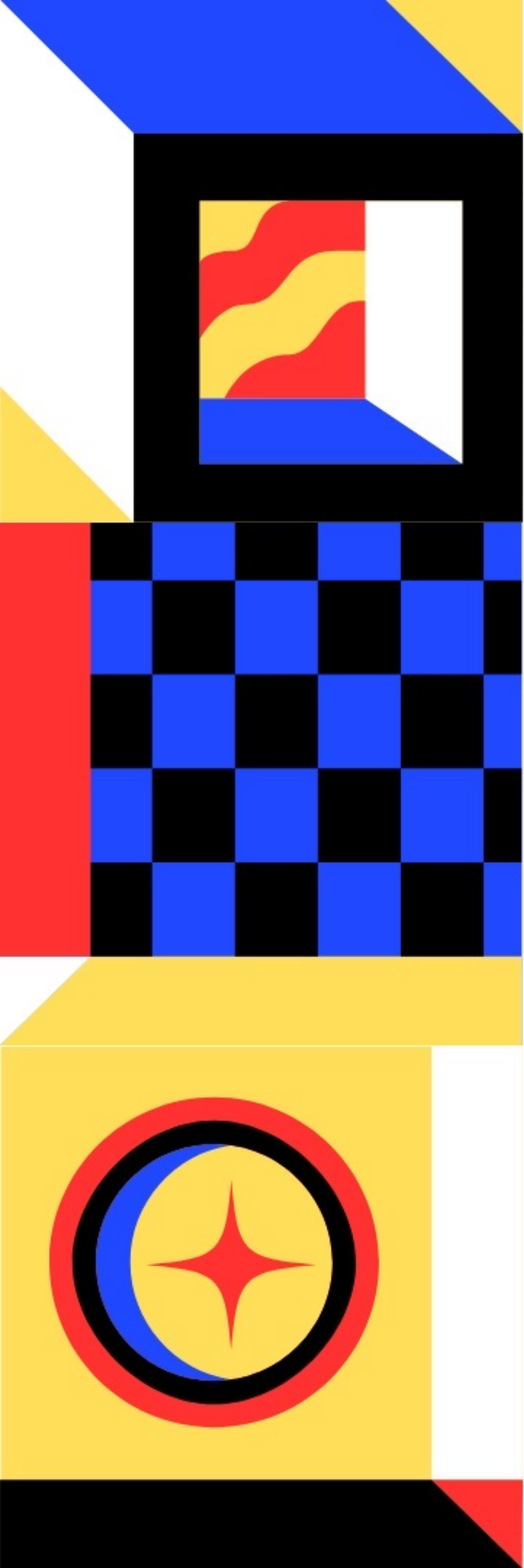
Freedom in Secularism

- There is no cosmic order, there is no essential human nature, there is no truth or moral absolute, therefore we are free



Problems with Secular Conception of Freedom

- True freedom is giving up some freedoms in order to gain other freedoms.
- Counter argument: *"These restraints can be the ones I have chosen - so that still makes me free by today's definition as long as I am free to do what I want."*
 - Too simplistic
 - Must submit yourself to reality's limits
 - Must submit yourself to body's design



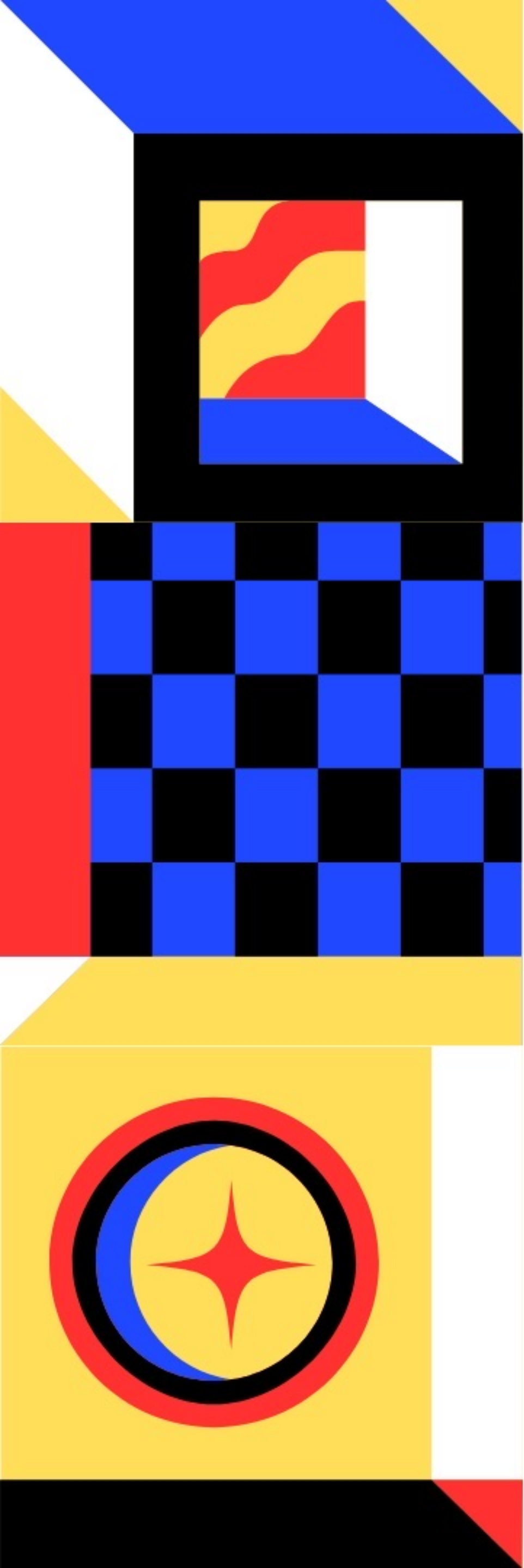
**Why can't I be free to live as I see fit, so long
as I don't harm anyone?**



The left side of the slide features a vertical column of abstract geometric patterns. At the top is a blue triangle. Below it is a black square containing a smaller square with red and yellow wavy lines. This is followed by a blue and black checkerboard pattern. At the bottom is a yellow square containing a red circle with a black outline and a red four-pointed star in the center.

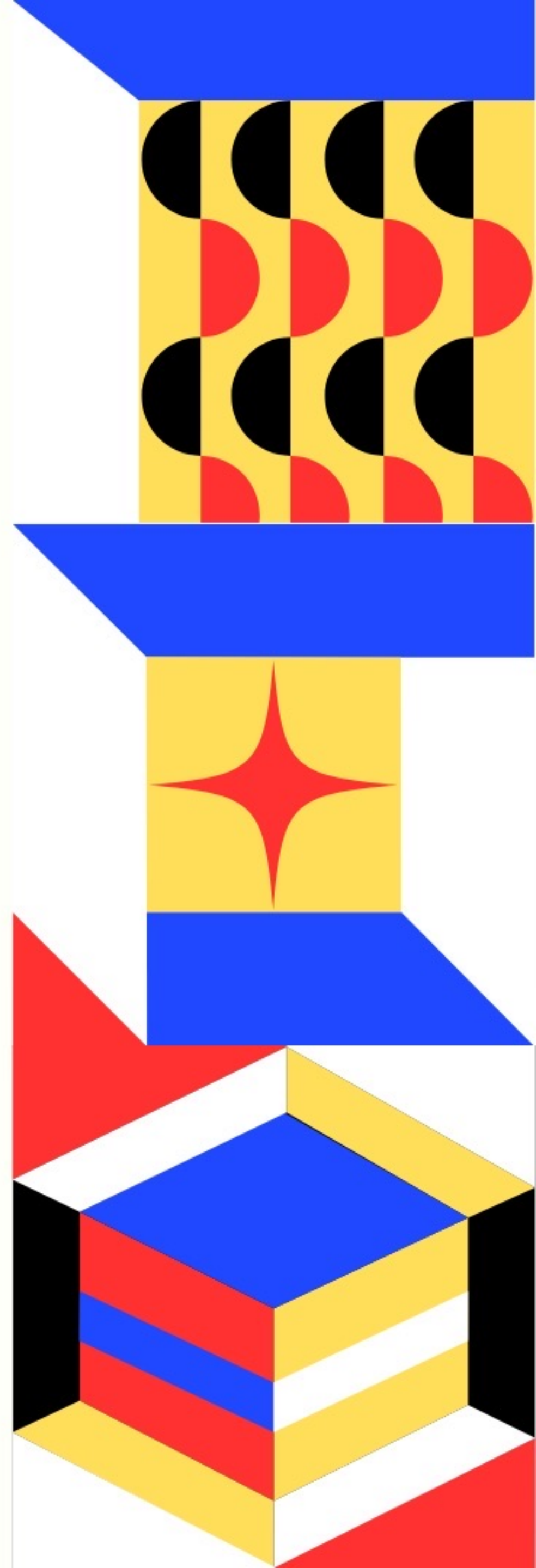
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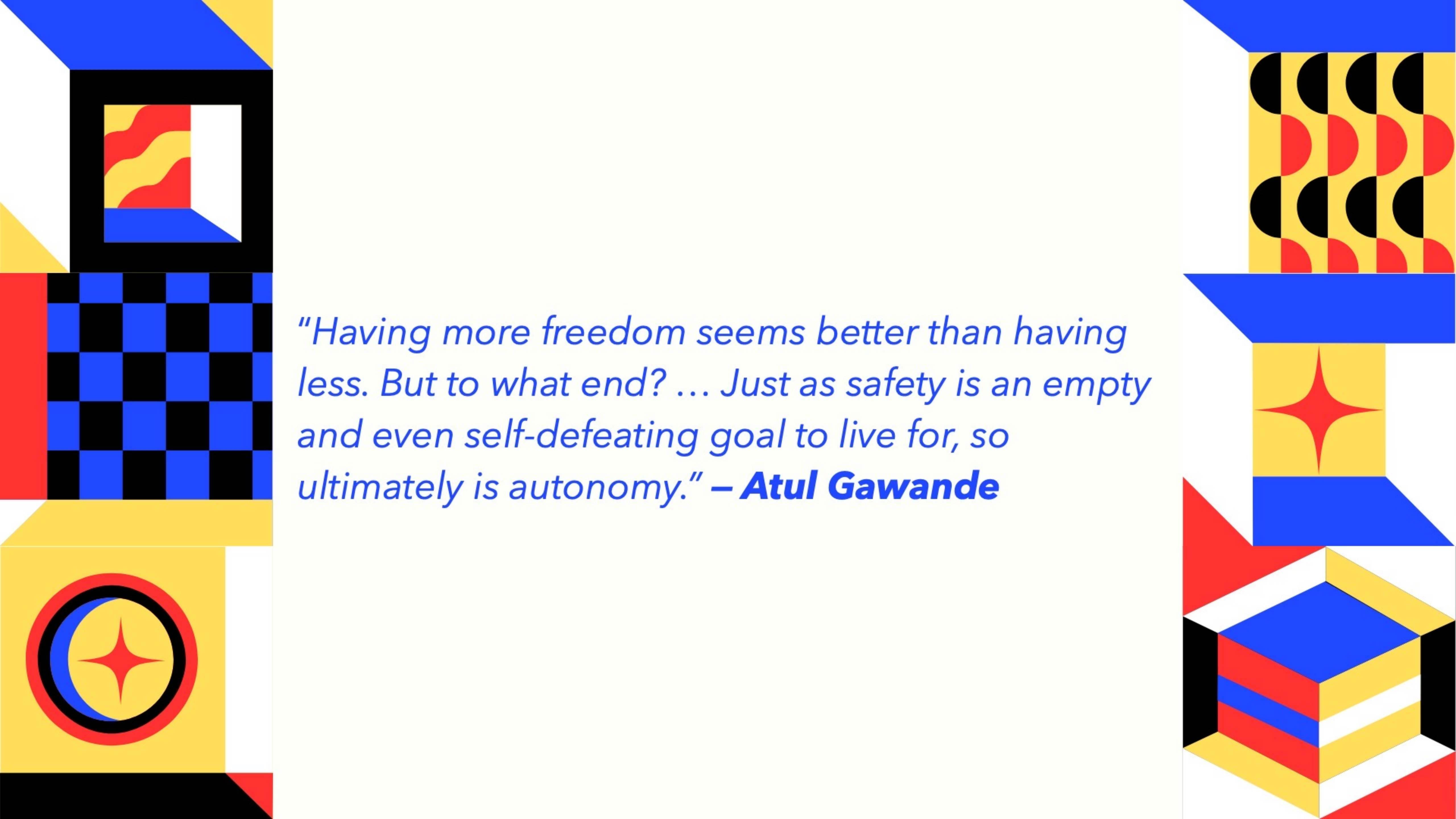
- It's useless
 - It's disingenuous
 - You must define harm, and not everyone agrees
- 
- The right side of the slide features a vertical column of abstract geometric patterns. At the top is a blue triangle. Below it is a yellow square containing a grid of black and red semi-circles. This is followed by a blue trapezoid. Below that is a yellow square containing a red four-pointed star. This is followed by a blue trapezoid. At the bottom is a red triangle. Below that is a yellow square containing a blue circle with a black outline and a red four-pointed star in the center. At the very bottom is a black triangle.



What Freedom Truly Is

- Positive Freedom



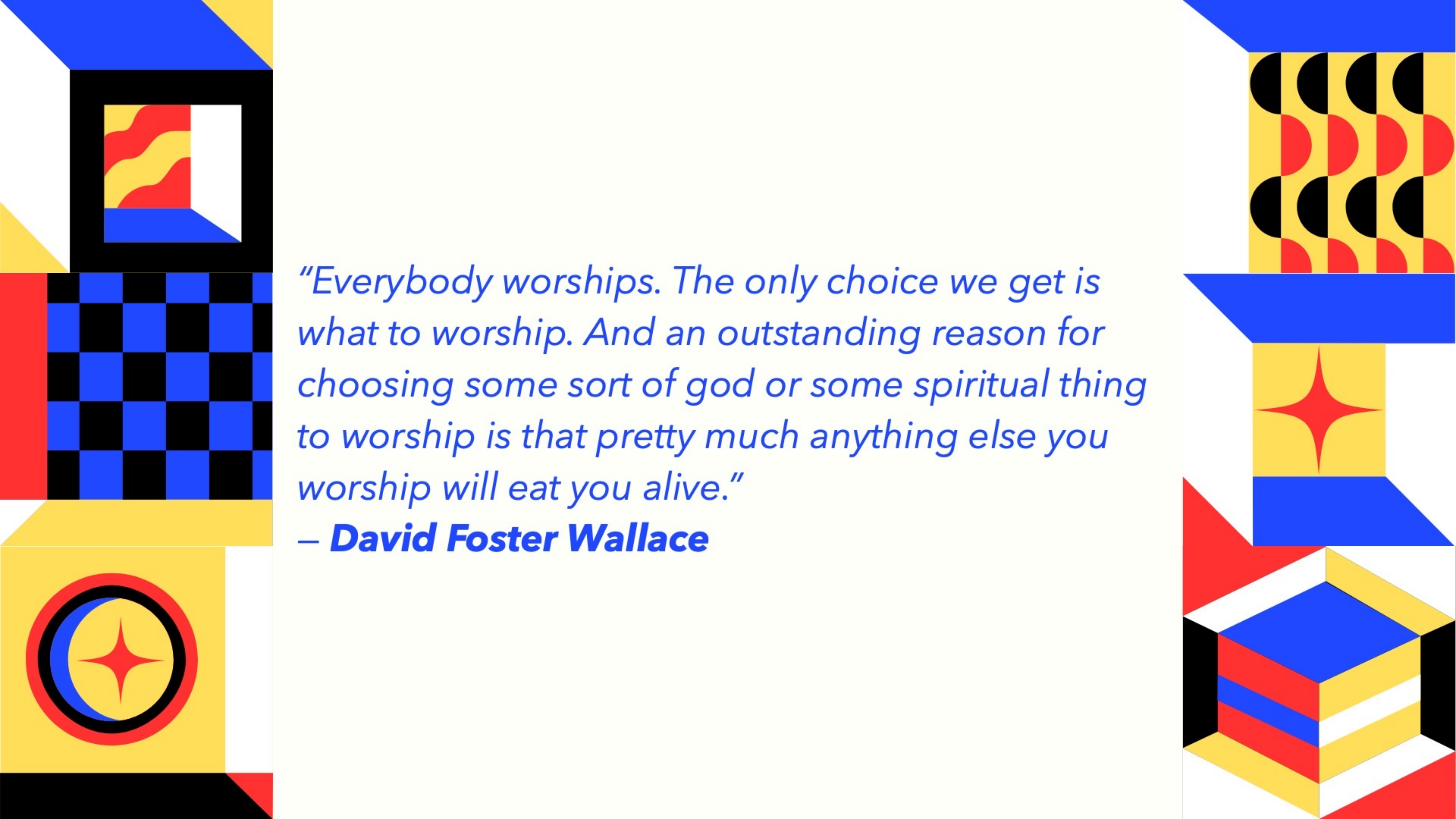
The image features a central white rectangular area containing a quote. This central area is flanked by two vertical strips of abstract geometric patterns. The left strip includes a blue and yellow diagonal pattern at the top, a black square with a red and yellow wavy pattern inside, a blue and black checkerboard pattern, and a yellow square with a red and blue circular pattern at the bottom. The right strip includes a yellow and black pattern with red and black semi-circles, a solid blue horizontal band, a yellow square with a red four-pointed star, a solid blue horizontal band, and a 3D geometric pattern of blue, red, yellow, and black shapes at the bottom.

*"Having more freedom seems better than having less. But to what end? ... Just as safety is an empty and even self-defeating goal to live for, so ultimately is autonomy." – **Atul Gawande***



What Freedom Truly Is

- Positive Freedom
- Freedom from Slavery to Cruel Masters



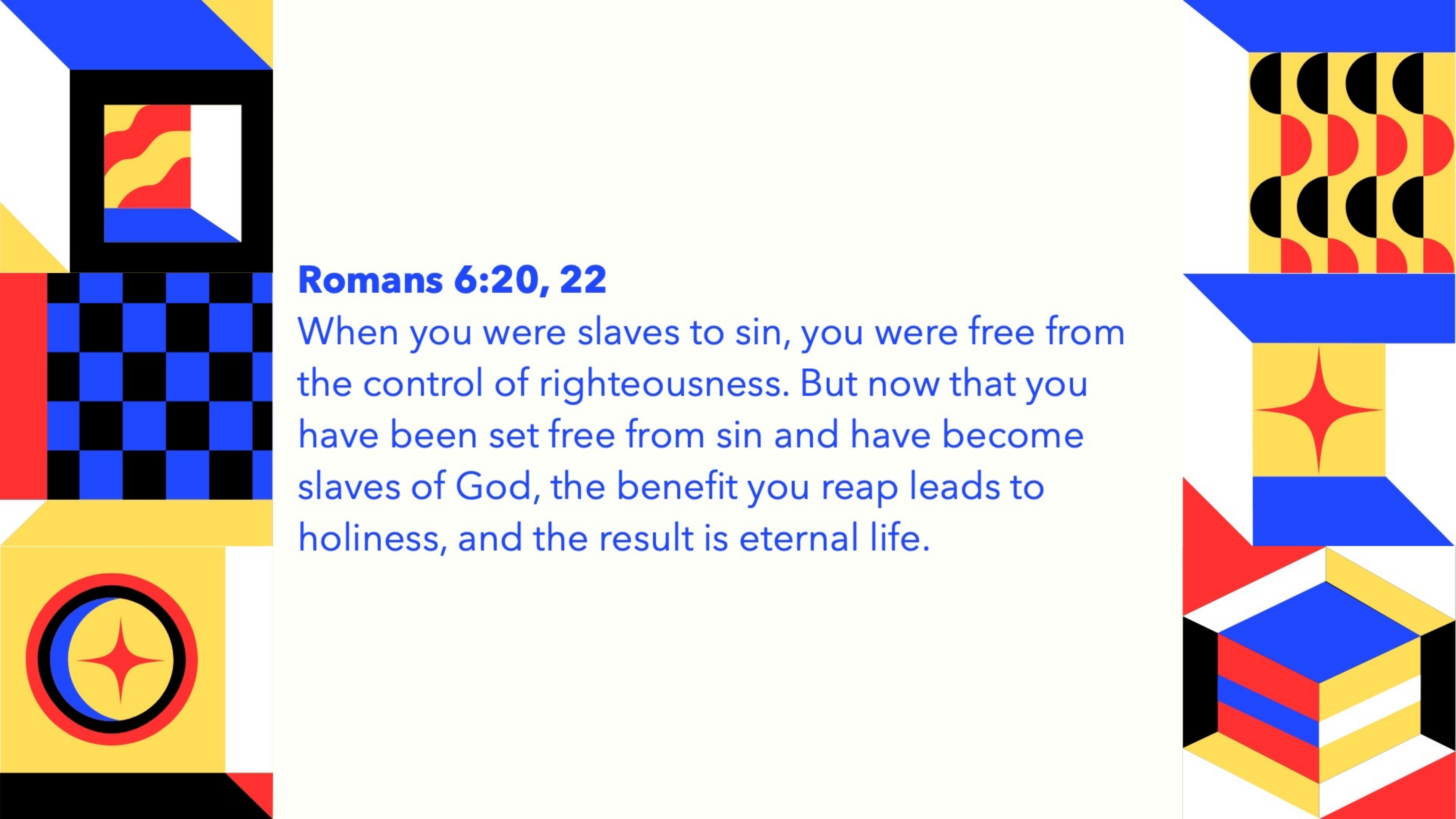
"Everybody worships. The only choice we get is what to worship. And an outstanding reason for choosing some sort of god or some spiritual thing to worship is that pretty much anything else you worship will eat you alive."

– David Foster Wallace



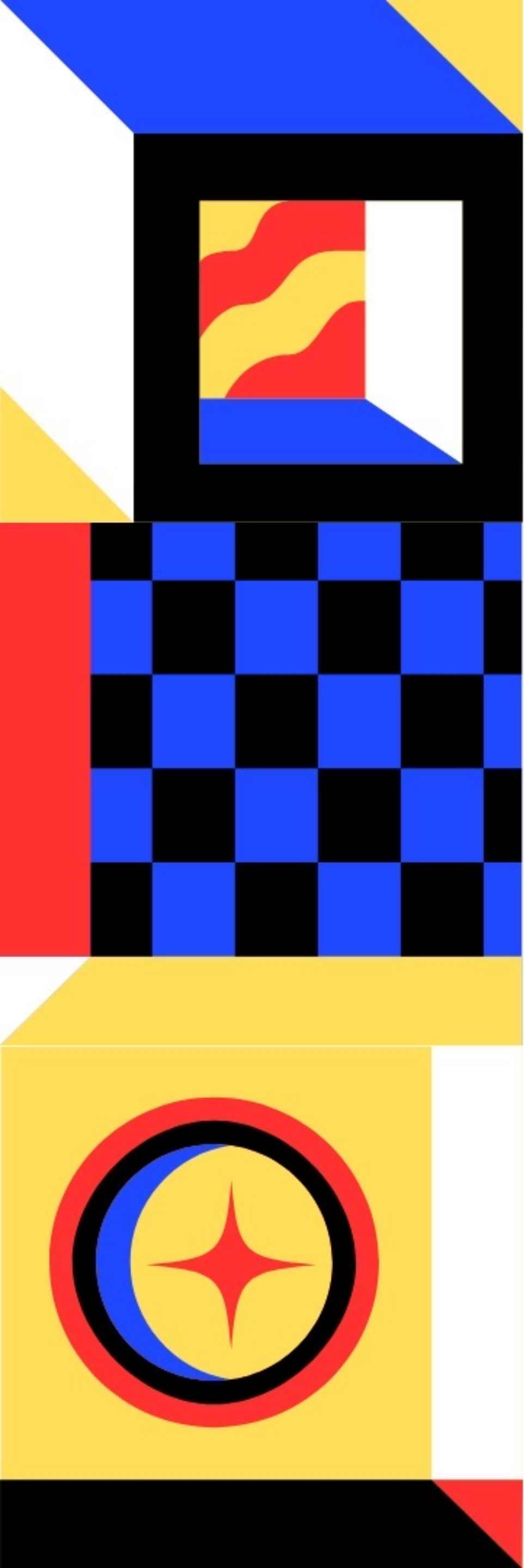
What Freedom Truly Is

- Positive Freedom
- Freedom from Slavery to Cruel Masters
- Which Master Will You Serve?



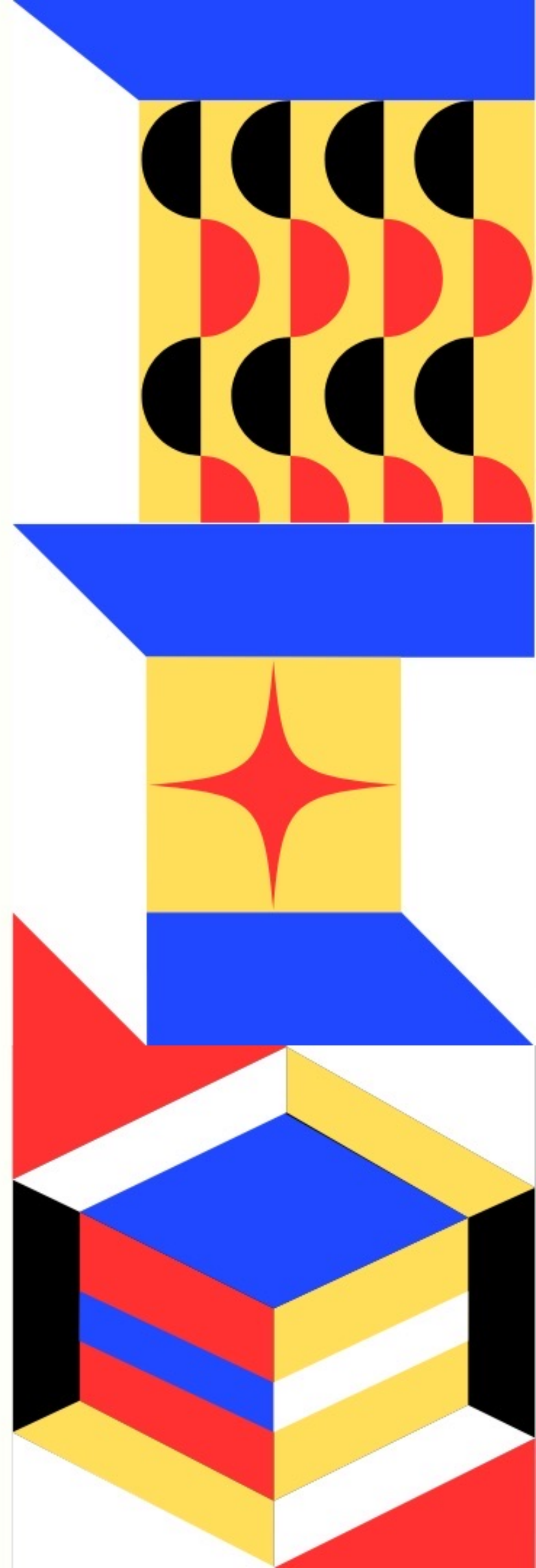
Romans 6:20, 22

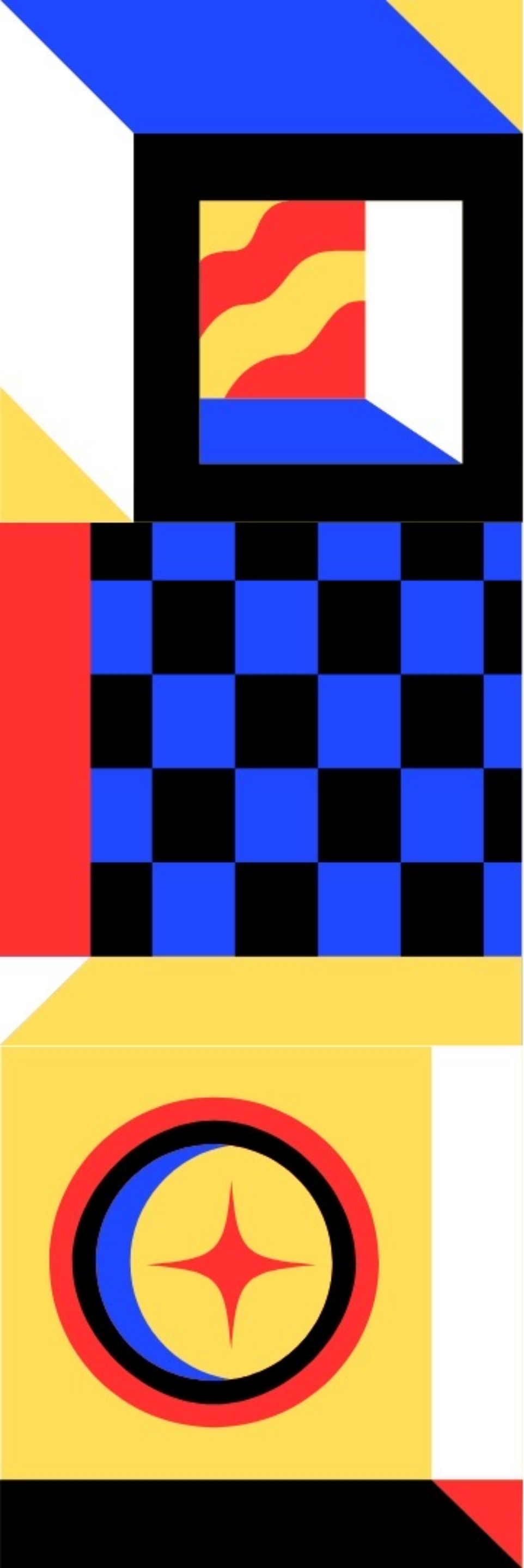
When you were slaves to sin, you were free from the control of righteousness. But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life.



Galatians 5:1

For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.



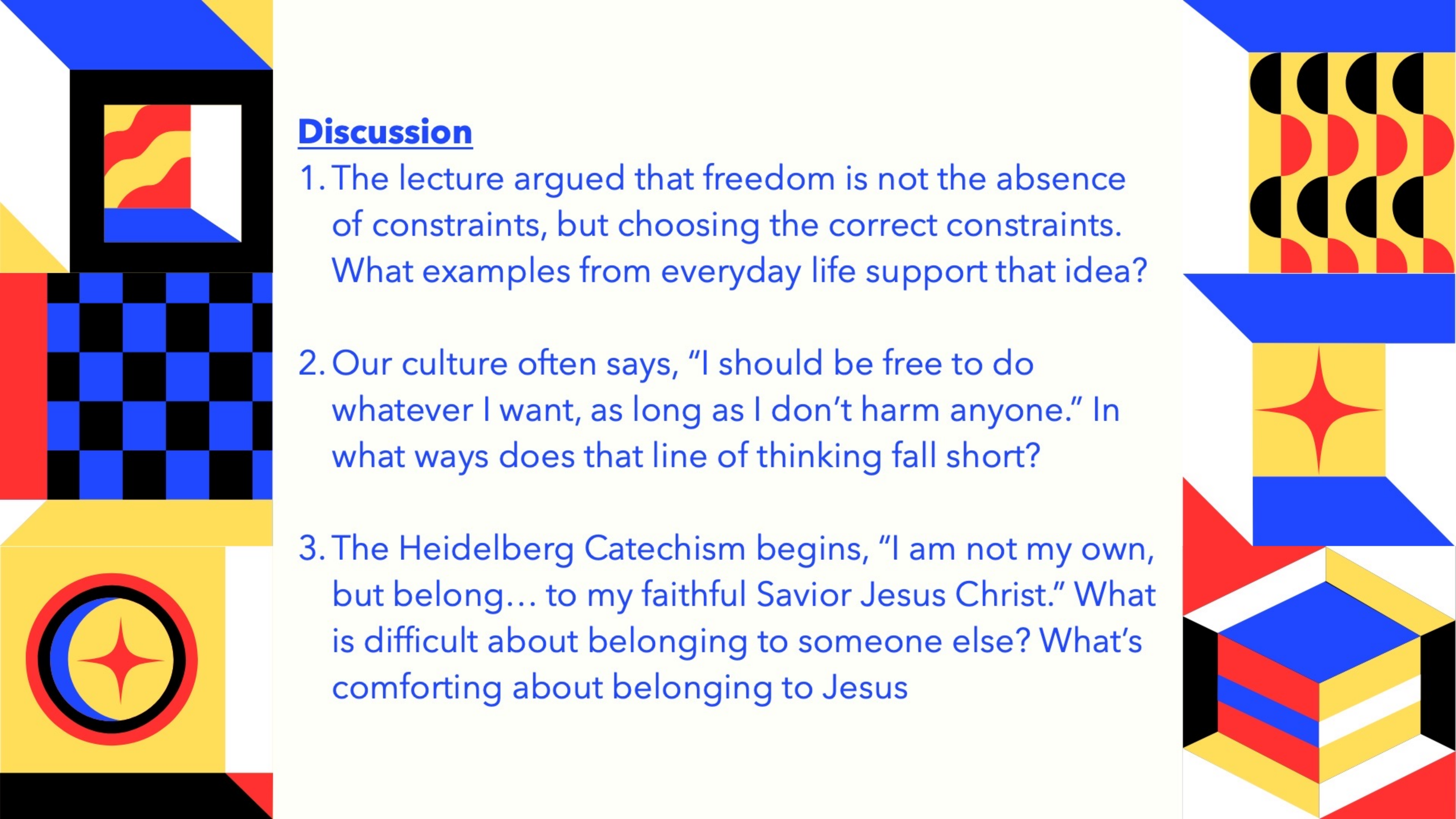


Heidelberg Catechism Q&A #1

Q. What is your only comfort in life and in death?

A. That I am not my own, but belong—body and soul, in life and in death— to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ. He has **fully paid** for all my sins with his precious blood, and has **set me free** from the tyranny of the devil. He also watches over me in such a way that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of my Father in heaven; in fact, all things must work together for my salvation. Because I belong to him, Christ, by his Holy Spirit, assures me of eternal life and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.





Discussion

1. The lecture argued that freedom is not the absence of constraints, but choosing the correct constraints. What examples from everyday life support that idea?
2. Our culture often says, "I should be free to do whatever I want, as long as I don't harm anyone." In what ways does that line of thinking fall short?
3. The Heidelberg Catechism begins, "I am not my own, but belong... to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ." What is difficult about belonging to someone else? What's comforting about belonging to Jesus



CANYON CREEK
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

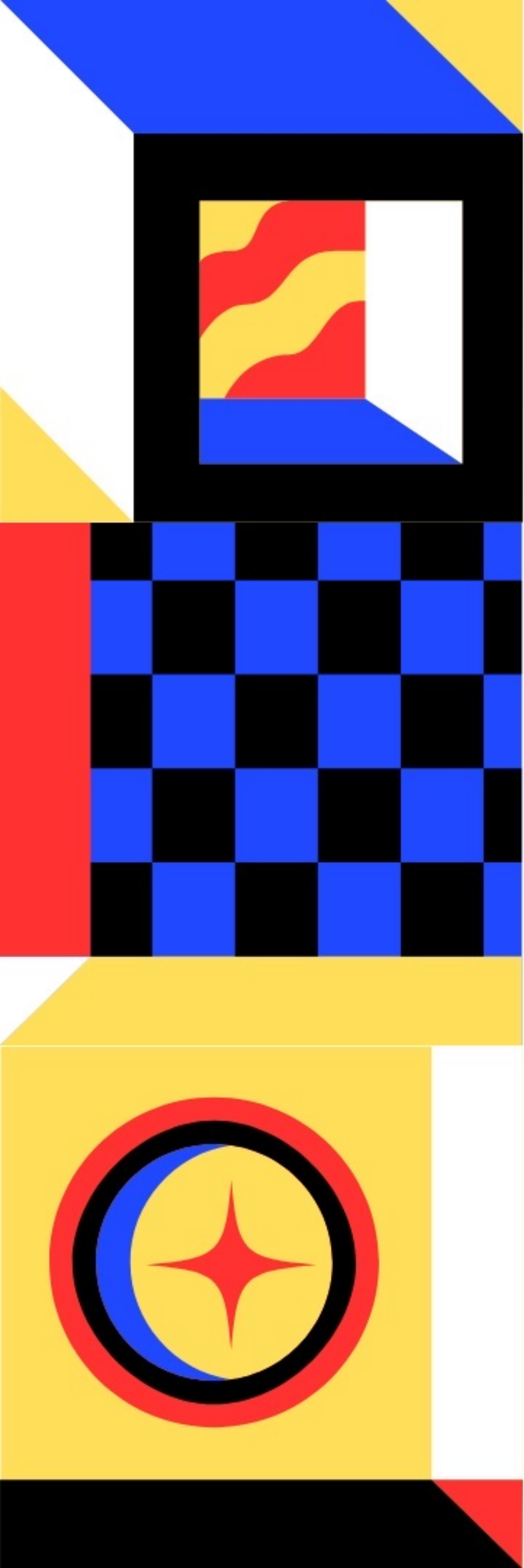


MEN'S AFTER HOURS

FRIDAY, JULY 17 | 7 - 9 PM

HOST-CLAUDIO INNAMORATI

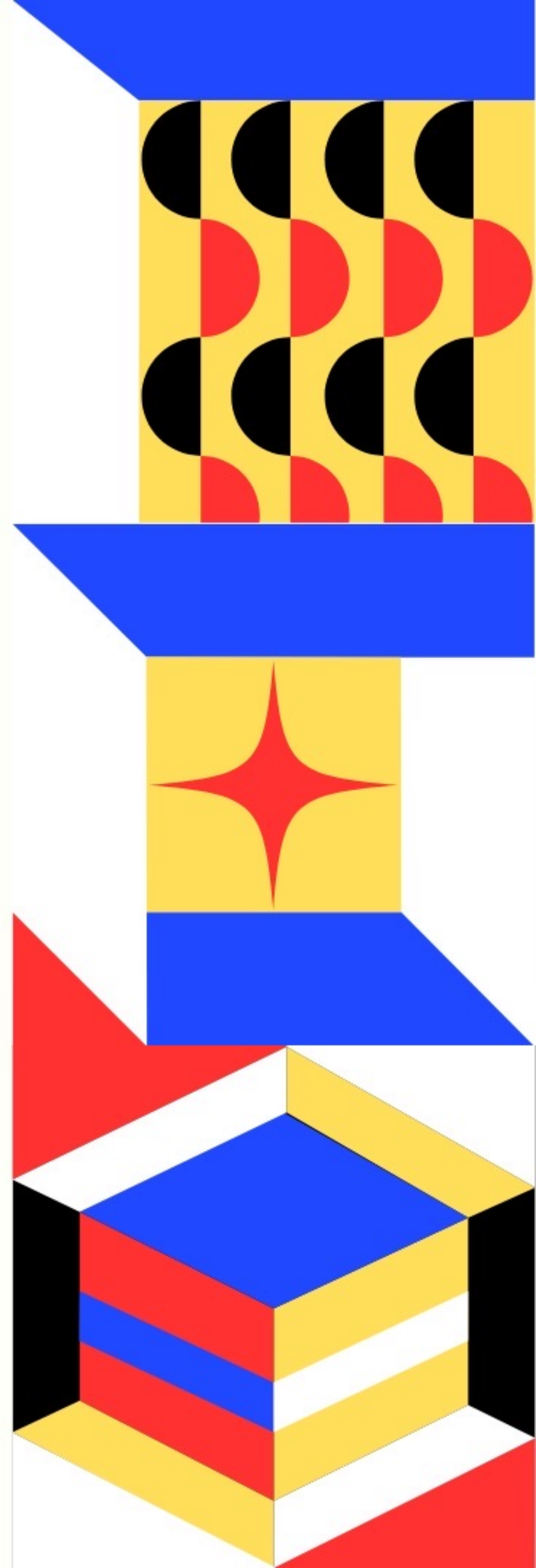


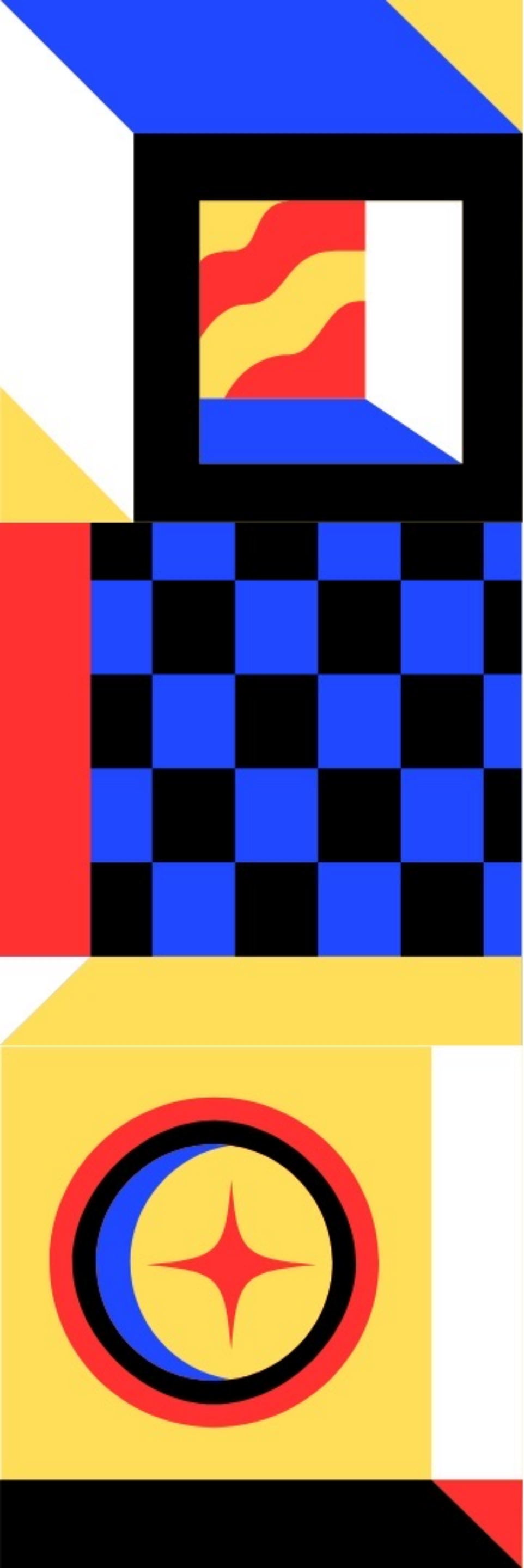


Setup and Tear Down

Who can help setup before next week?

Who can stay to help tear down tonight?





Next Week
Morality & Justice

