

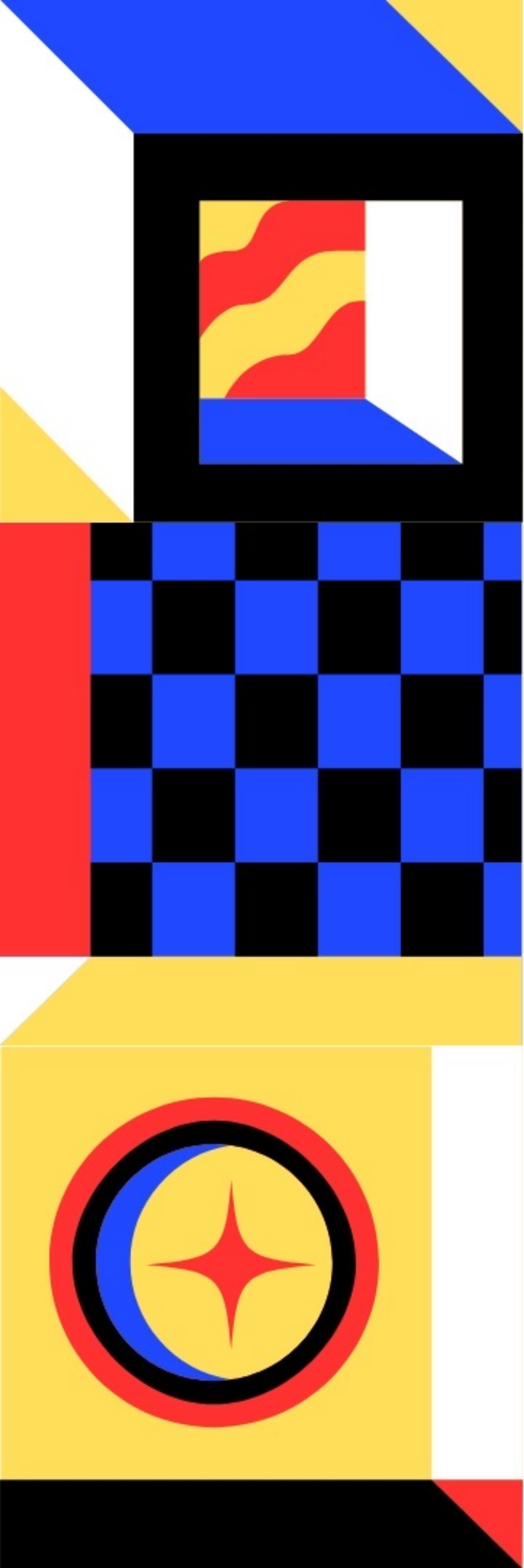


Meaning | Satisfaction | Freedom | Self | Identity | Hope | Morality | Justice

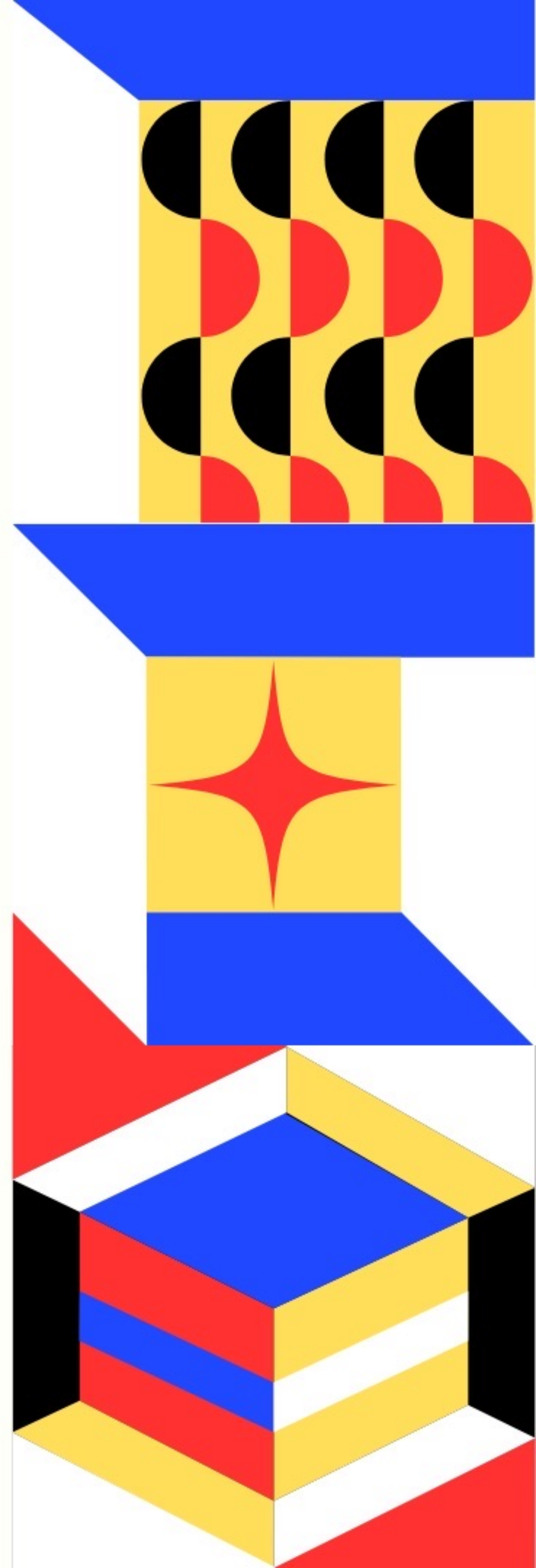
MAKING SENSE OF GOD

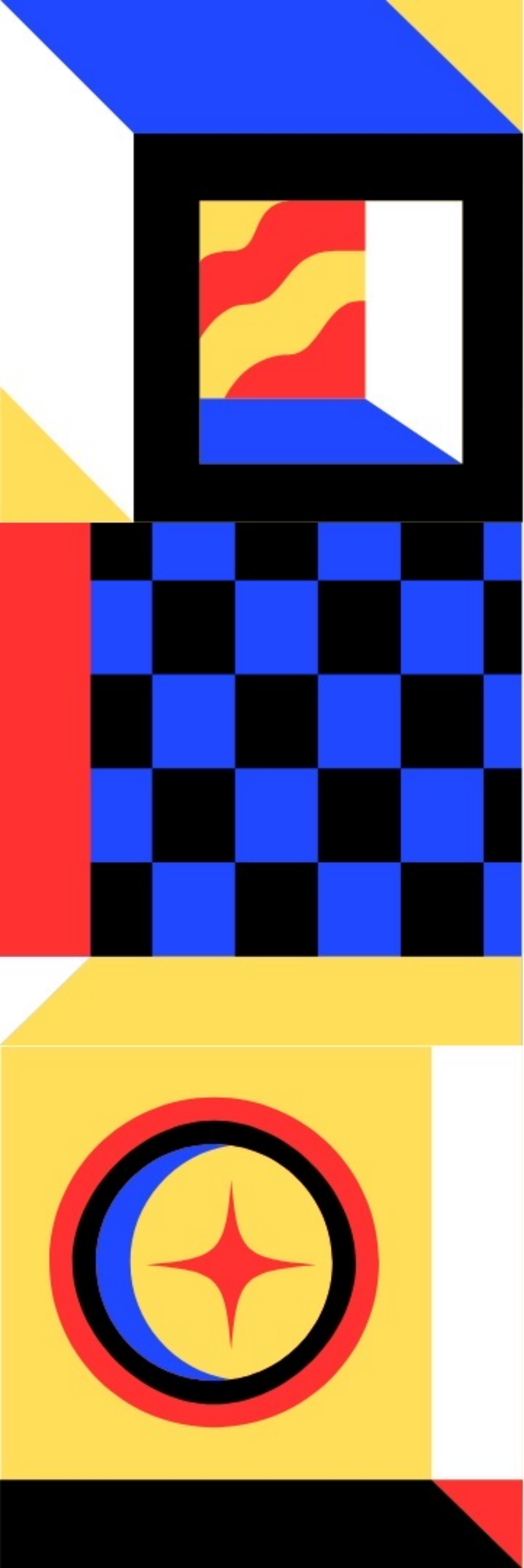
Kevin Timmons | Scott Sears | 7:15 pm | Wednesdays | July 8 – August 5





No one else, no one else
Can speak the words on your lips
Drench yourself in words unspoken
Live your life with arms wide open
Today is where your book begins
The rest is still unwritten

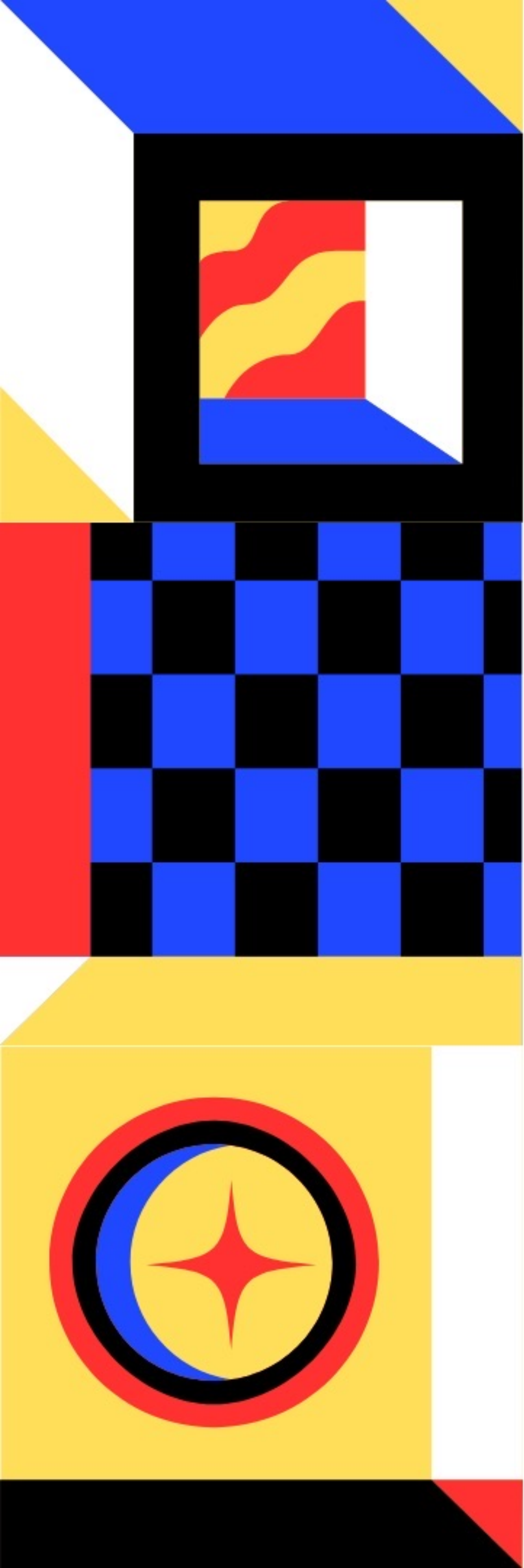




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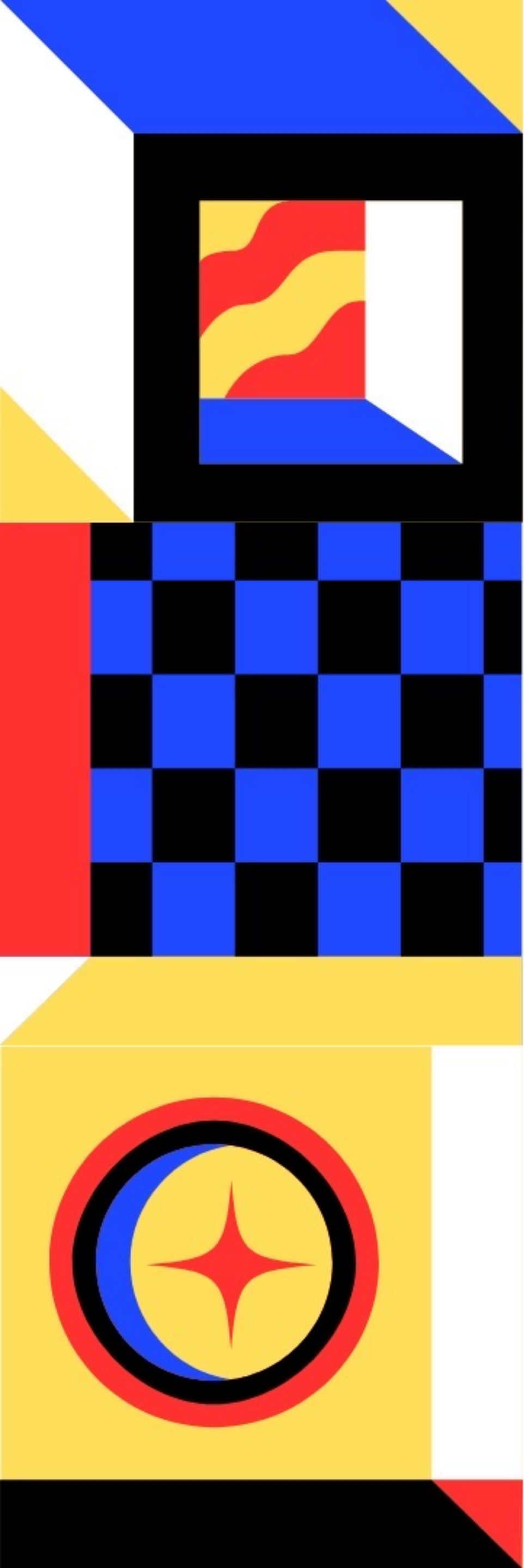
- **'Unwritten' by Natasha Bedingfield**



The left side of the image features a vertical column of abstract geometric patterns. From top to bottom: a blue and yellow triangle; a black square containing a yellow and red wavy shape; a blue and black checkerboard pattern; and a yellow square with a red and blue circular design containing a red star.

When the sharpest words wanna cut me down
I'm gonna send a flood, gonna drown 'em out
I am brave, I am bruised
I am who I'm meant to be, this is me
Look out 'cause here I come
And I'm marching on to the beat I drum
I'm not scared to be seen
I make no apologies, this is me

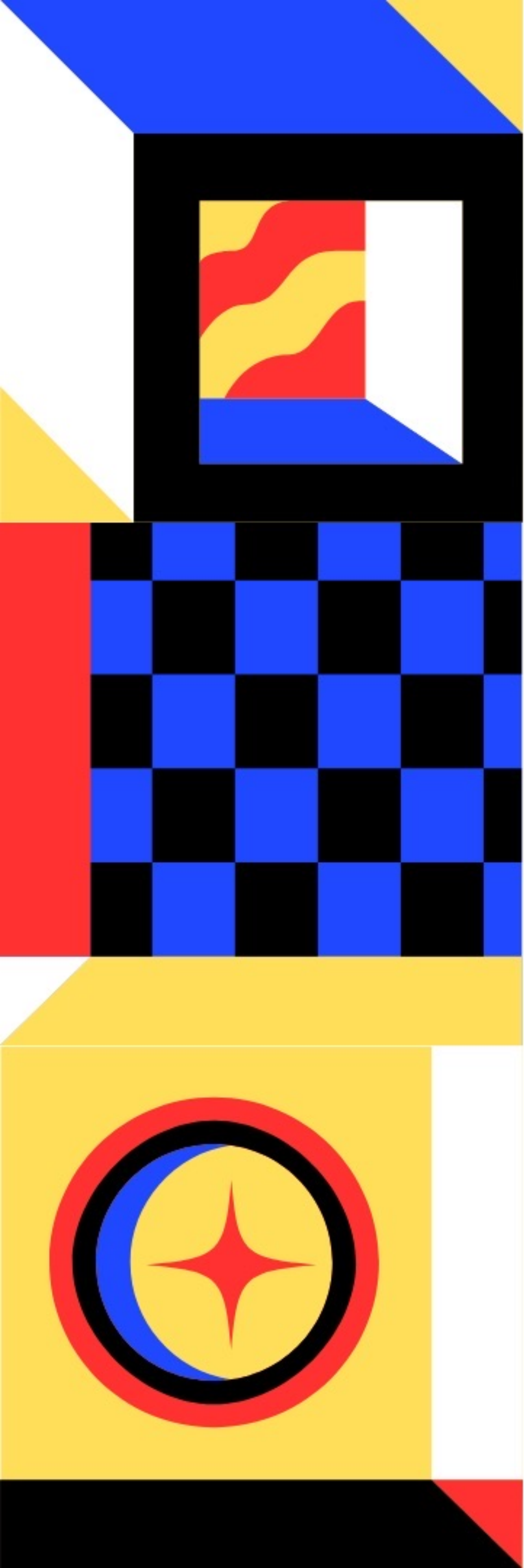
The right side of the image features a vertical column of abstract geometric patterns. From top to bottom: a yellow square with a black and red circular pattern; a blue trapezoid; a yellow square with a red star; a blue trapezoid; and a complex geometric design with blue, yellow, red, and black shapes.

The left side of the image features a vertical column of abstract geometric patterns. From top to bottom, it includes: a blue and yellow triangular pattern; a black square containing a yellow and red wavy pattern; a blue and black checkerboard pattern; and a yellow square containing a red and blue circular pattern with a four-pointed star in the center.

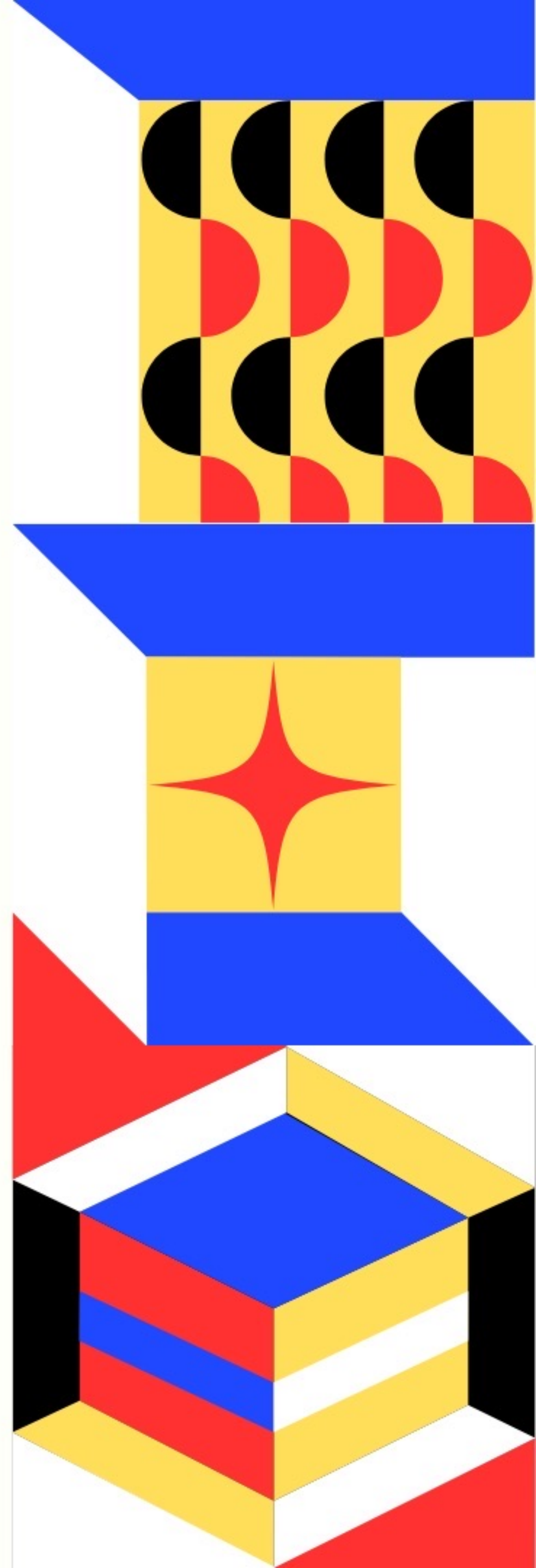
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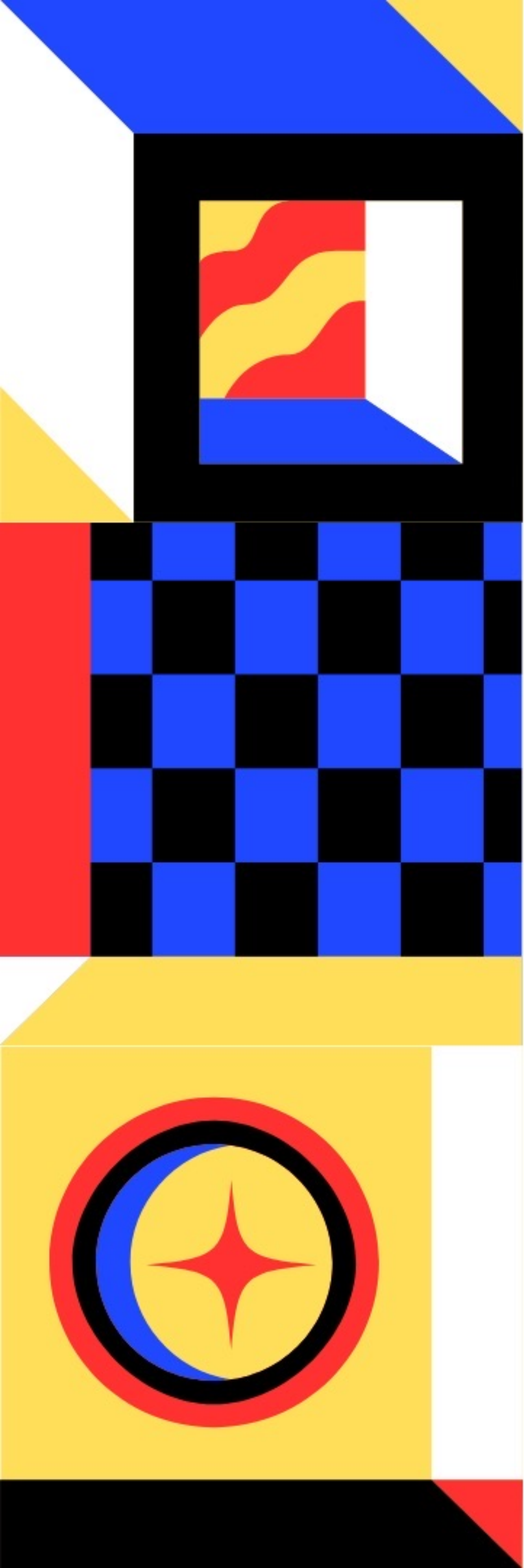
- **'This Is Me' from The Greatest Showman**

The right side of the image features a vertical column of abstract geometric patterns. From top to bottom, it includes: a yellow square with a grid of black and red semi-circles; a blue trapezoidal shape; a yellow square with a red four-pointed star; a blue trapezoidal shape; and a complex geometric pattern of blue, yellow, red, and black shapes at the bottom.



So I turned myself to face me
But I've never caught a glimpse
How the others must see the faker
I'm much too fast to take that test





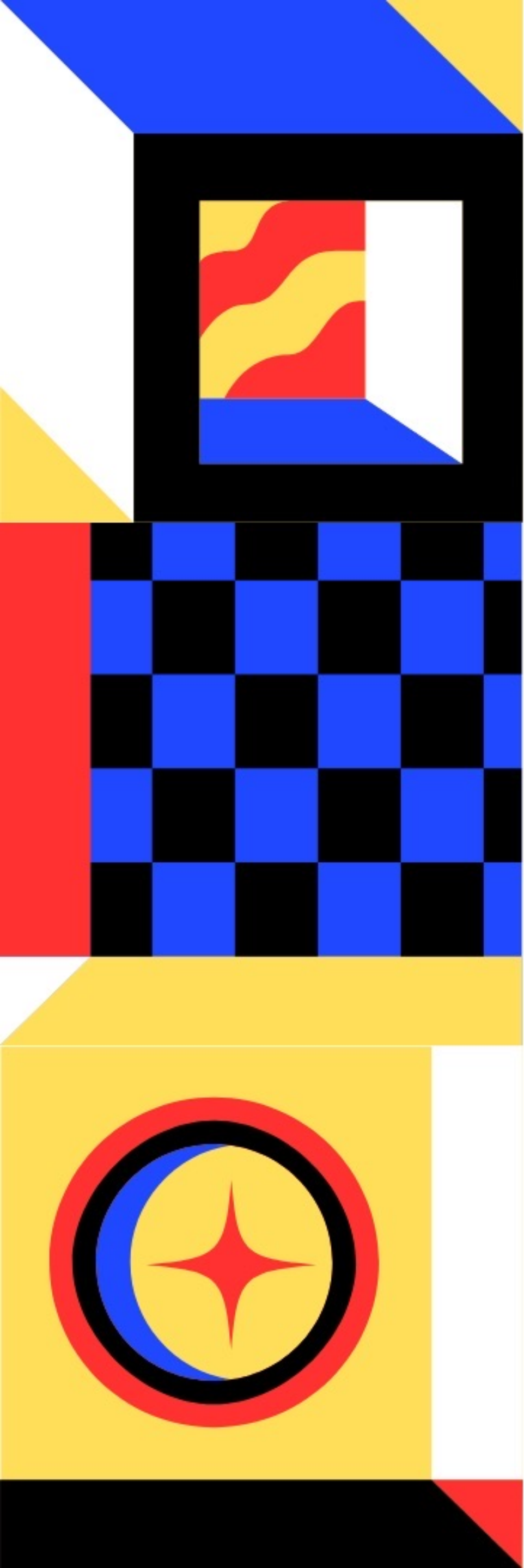
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- **'Changes' by David Bowie**



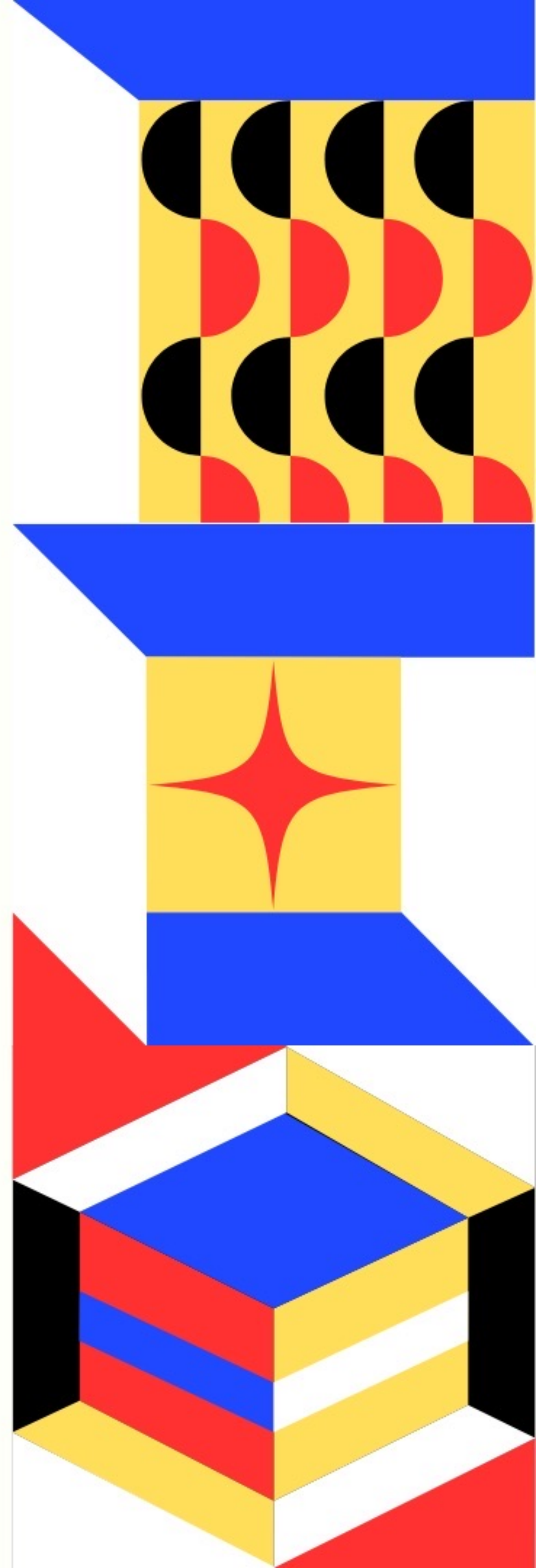


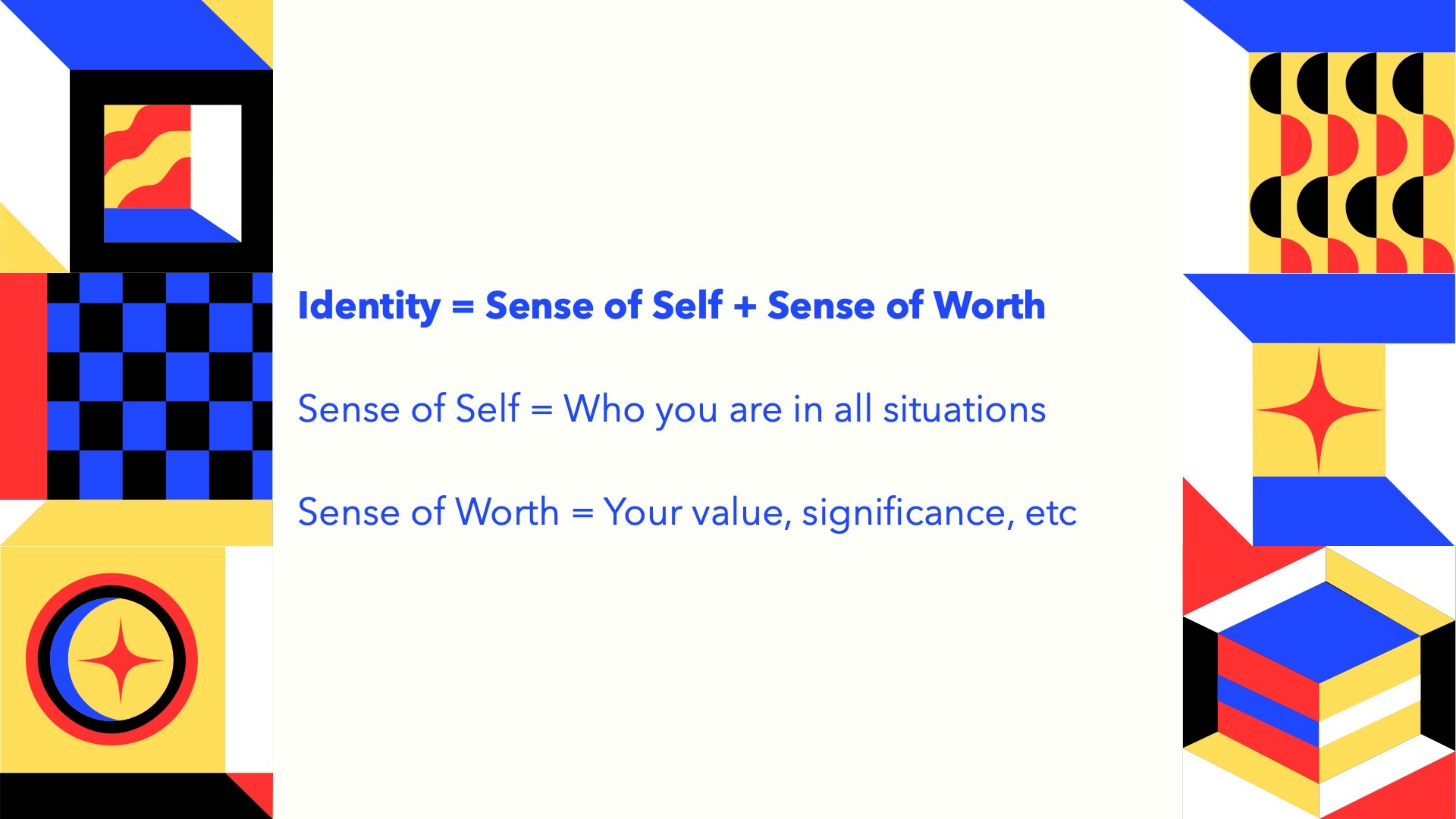
What Is Identity?



Identity = Sense of Self + ???

Sense of Self = Who you are in all situations





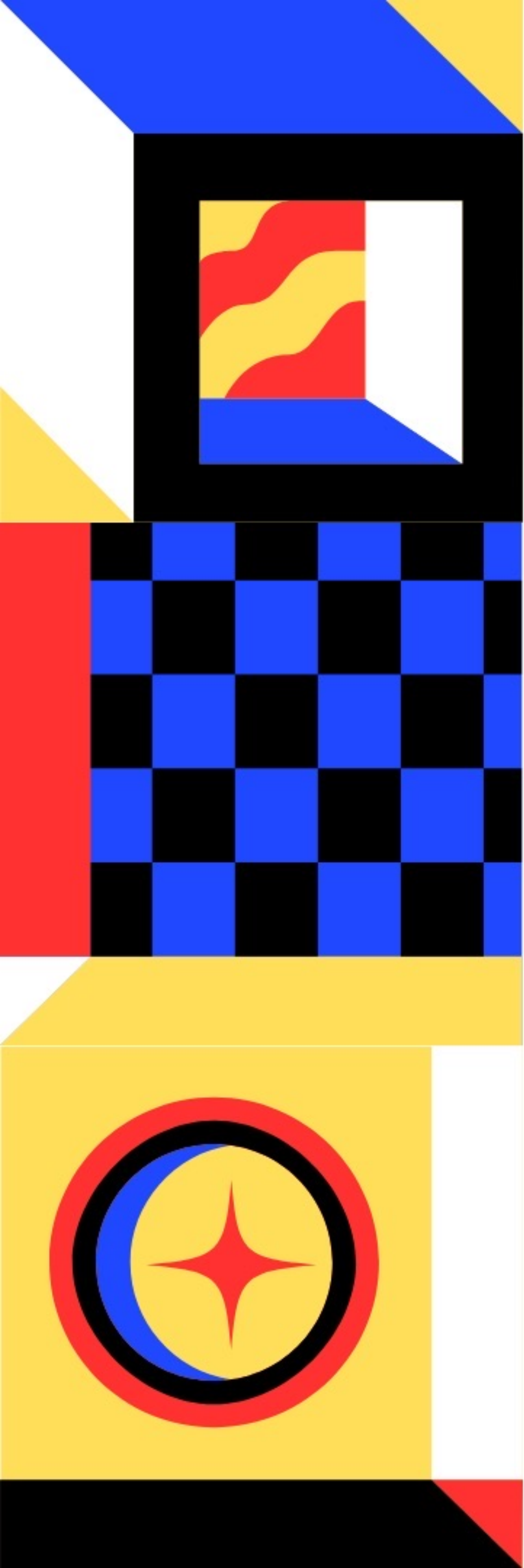
Identity = Sense of Self + Sense of Worth

Sense of Self = Who you are in all situations

Sense of Worth = Your value, significance, etc

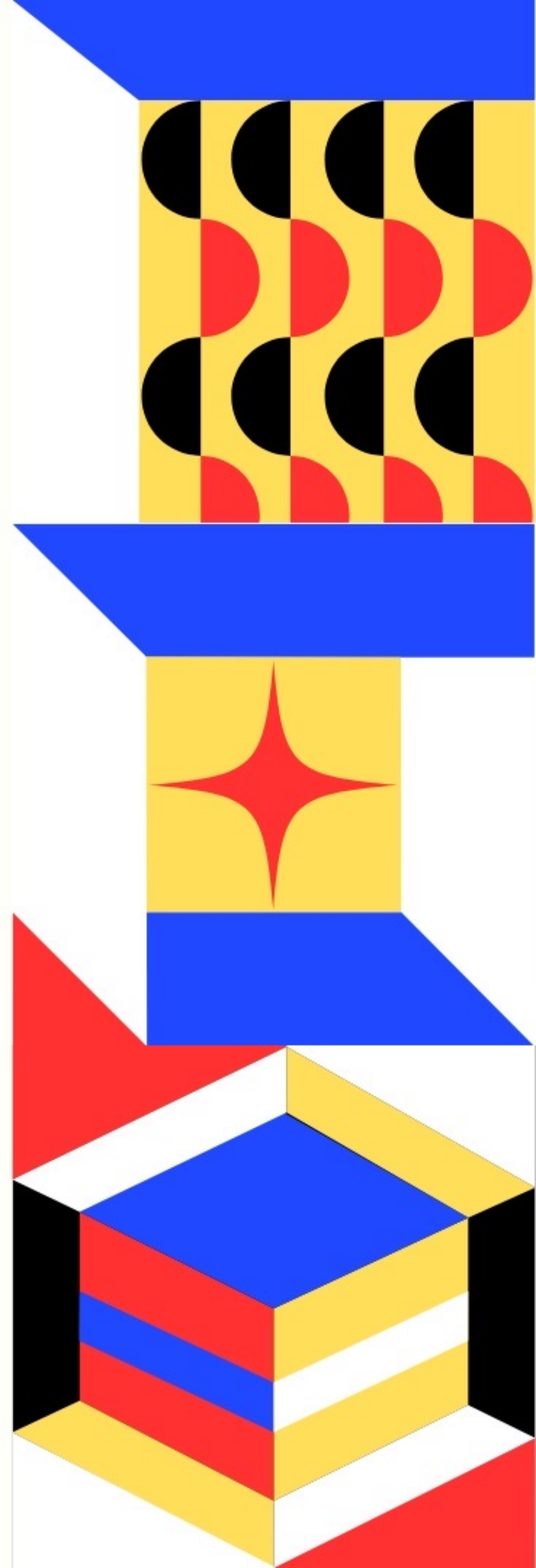


Problem of the Self



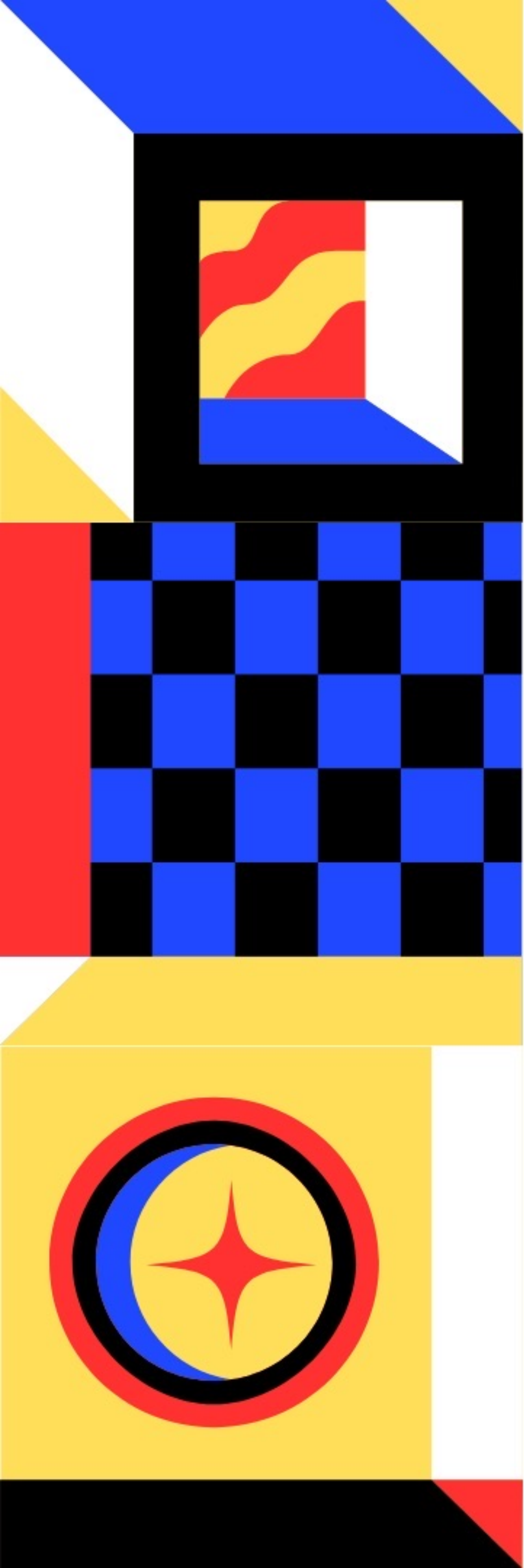
Traditional Identity Formation

- Outside In
- Religion, Family, Community
- Honor given to those who submit to greater good of community



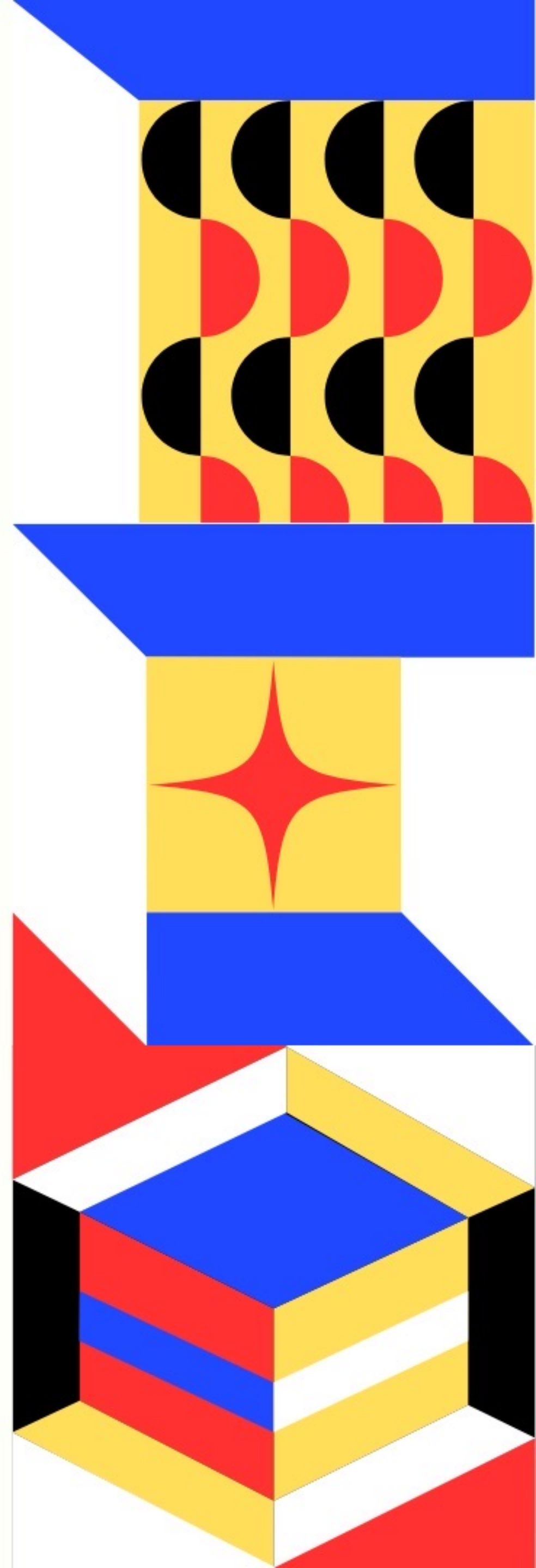


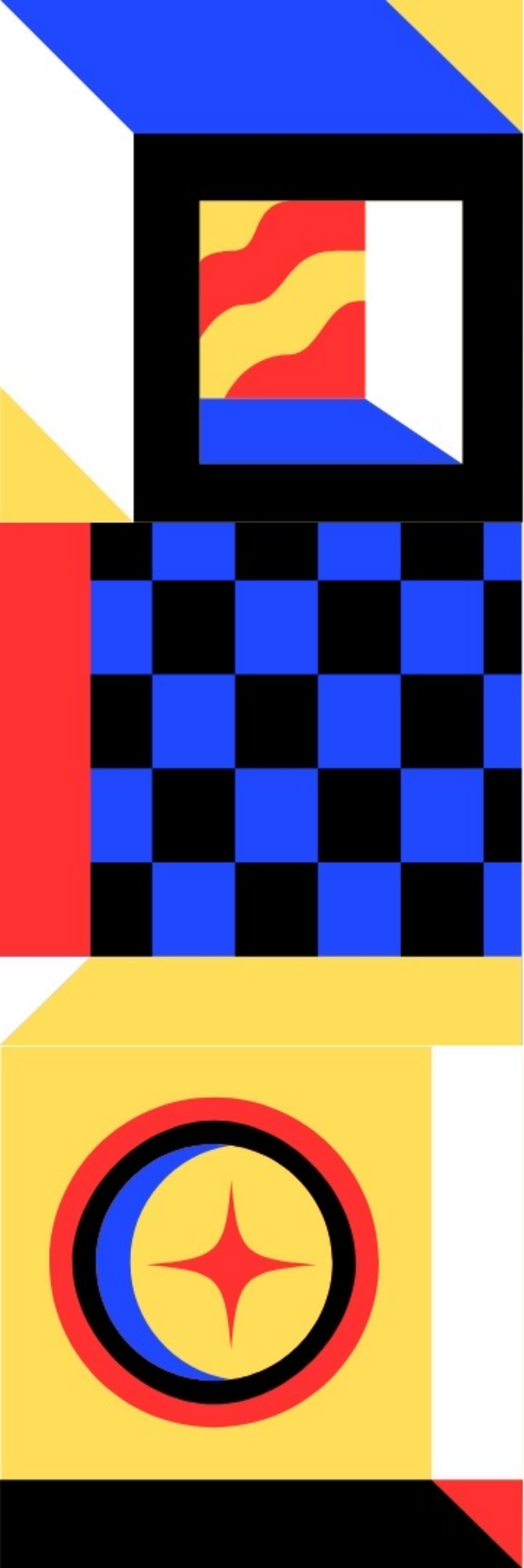
You stop following me. Who are you?



Problems with Traditional Identity Formation

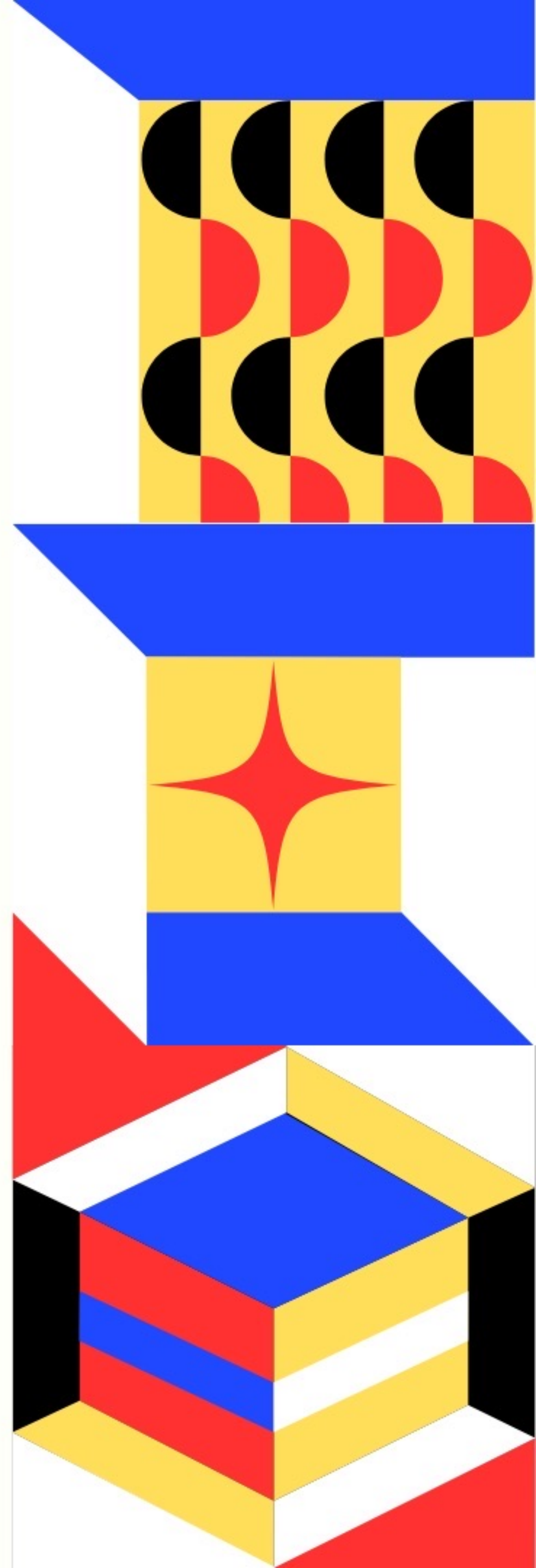
- Restrictive
- Stratified Society
- In Extreme Cases -> Abusive



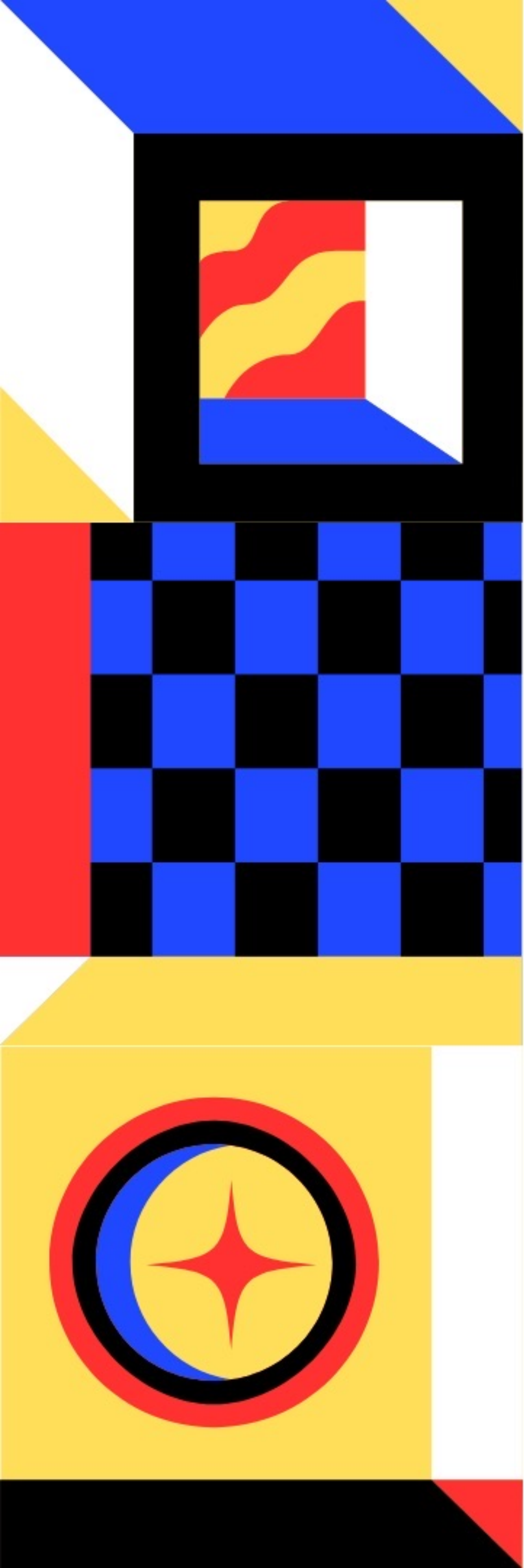


Modern Identity Formation

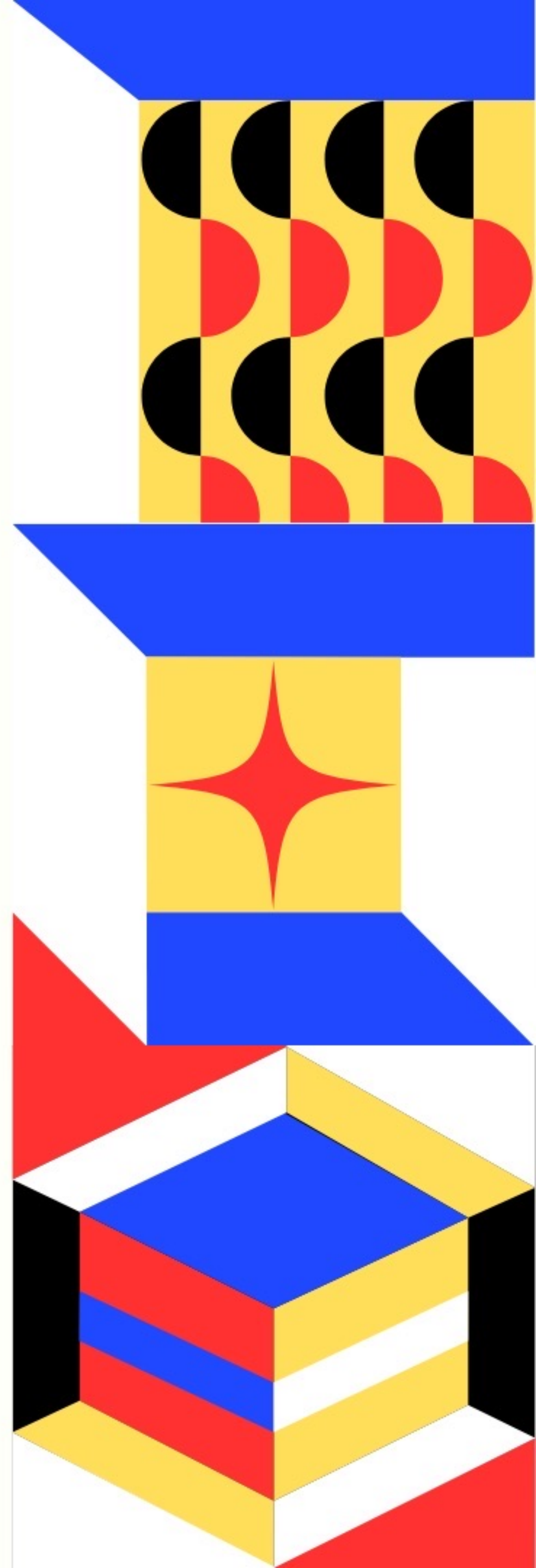
- Inside Out
- Inner desires must be expressed and accepted by surrounding community
- Only validation needed is your own

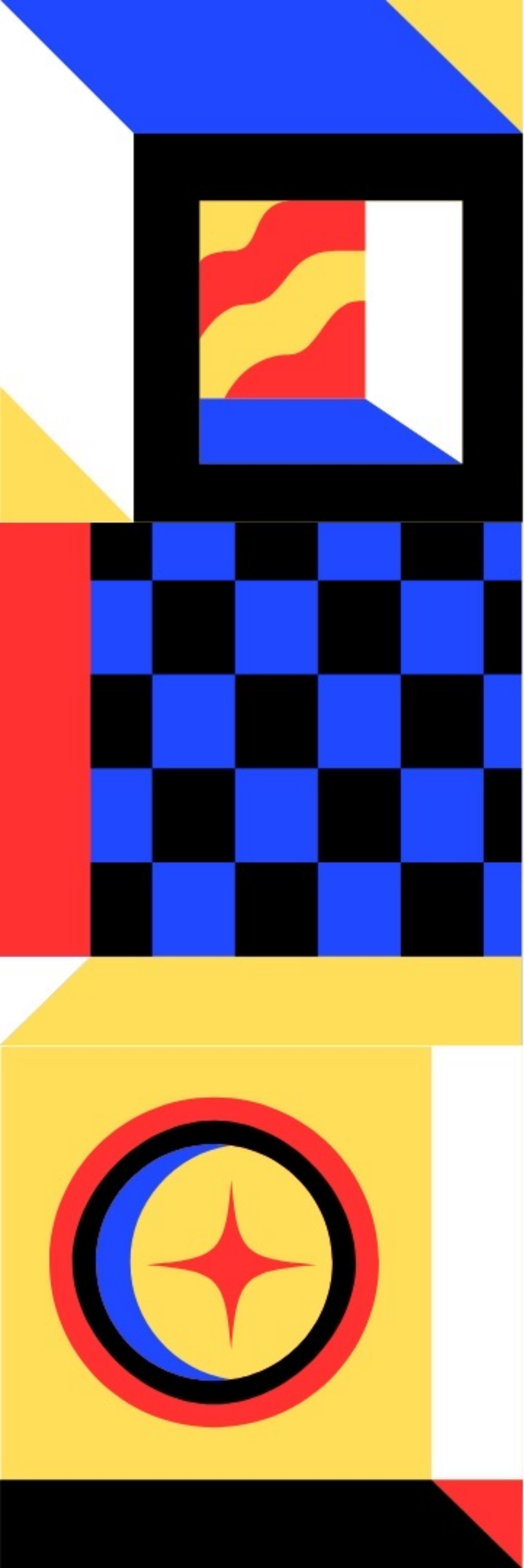






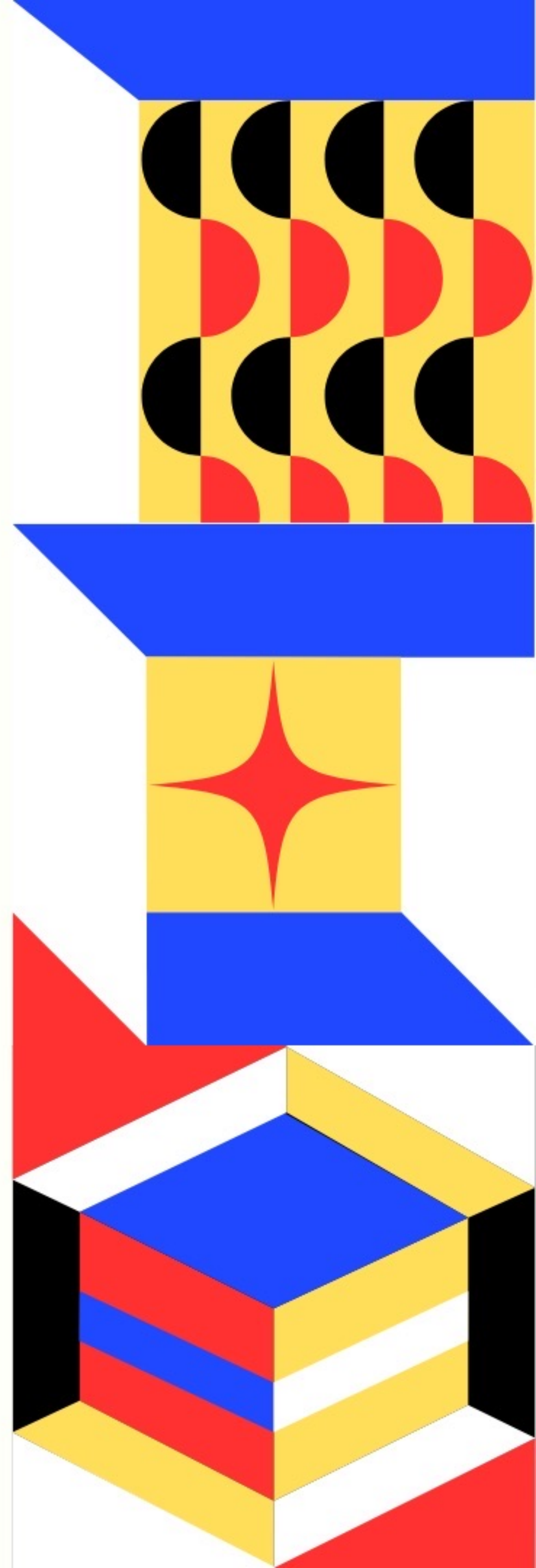
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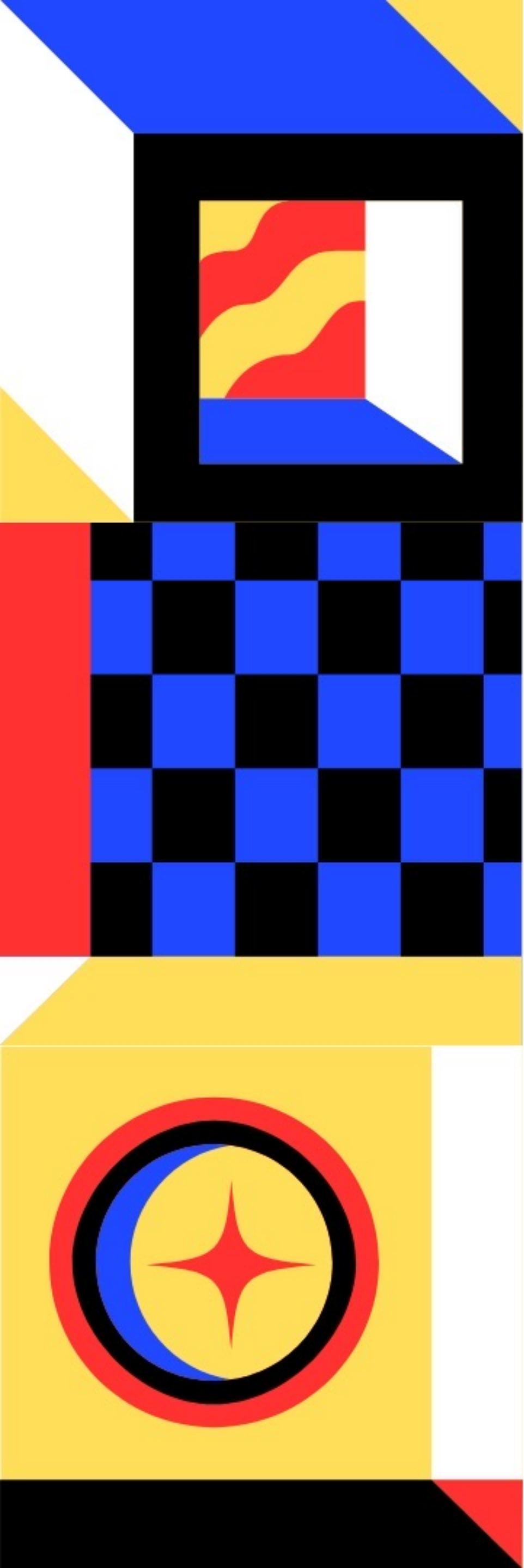




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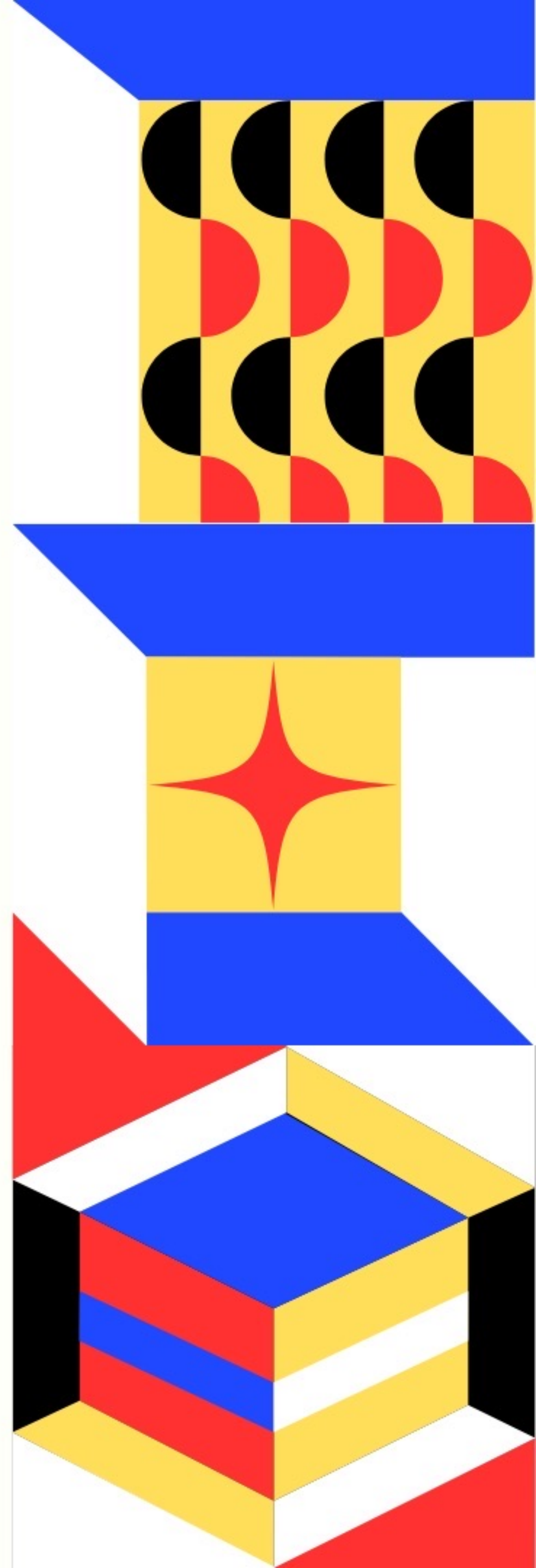
- Incoherent

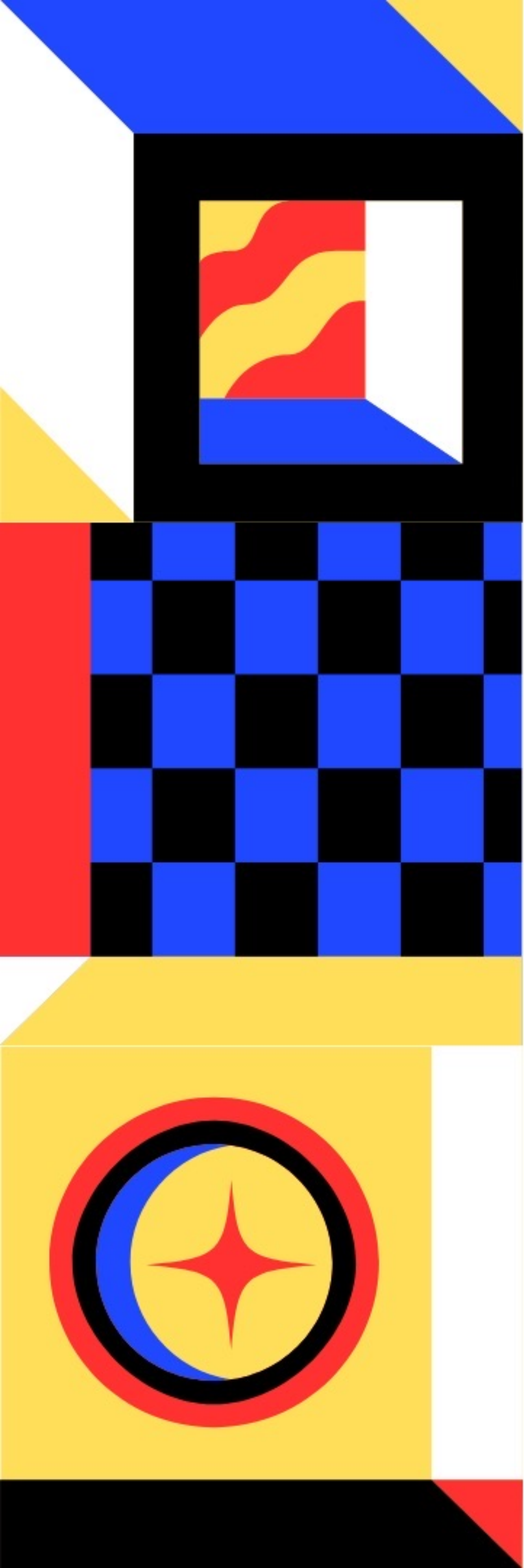




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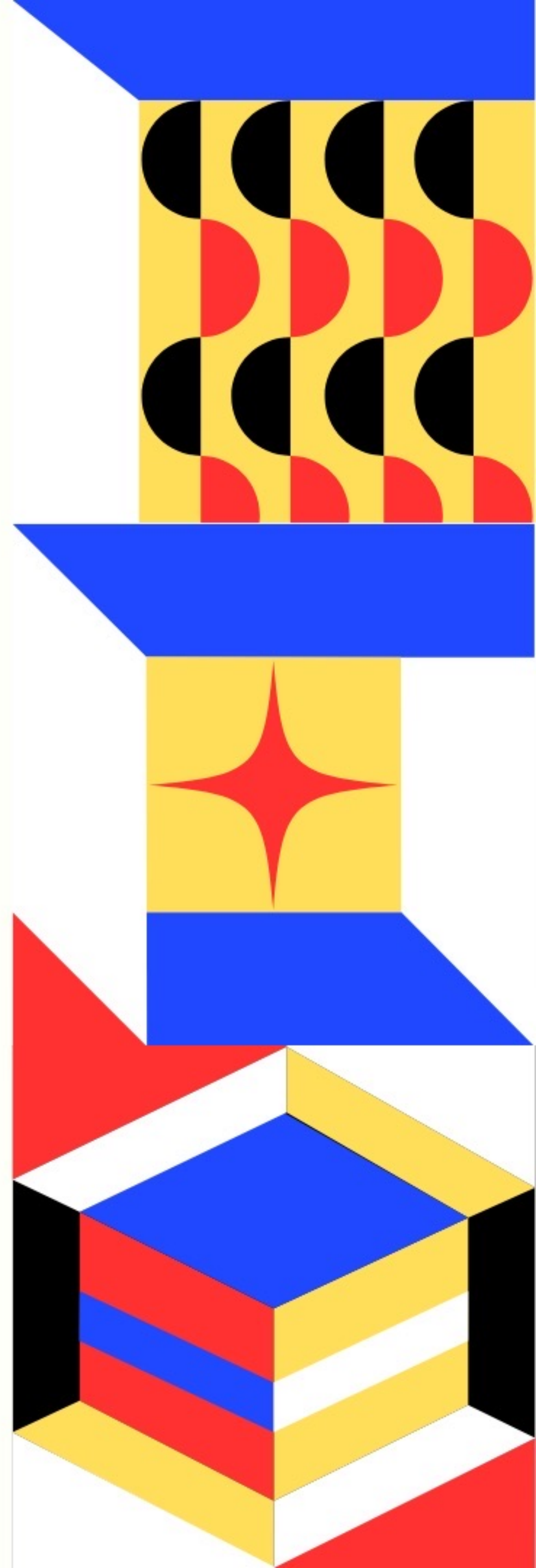
- Incoherent
- Fragile

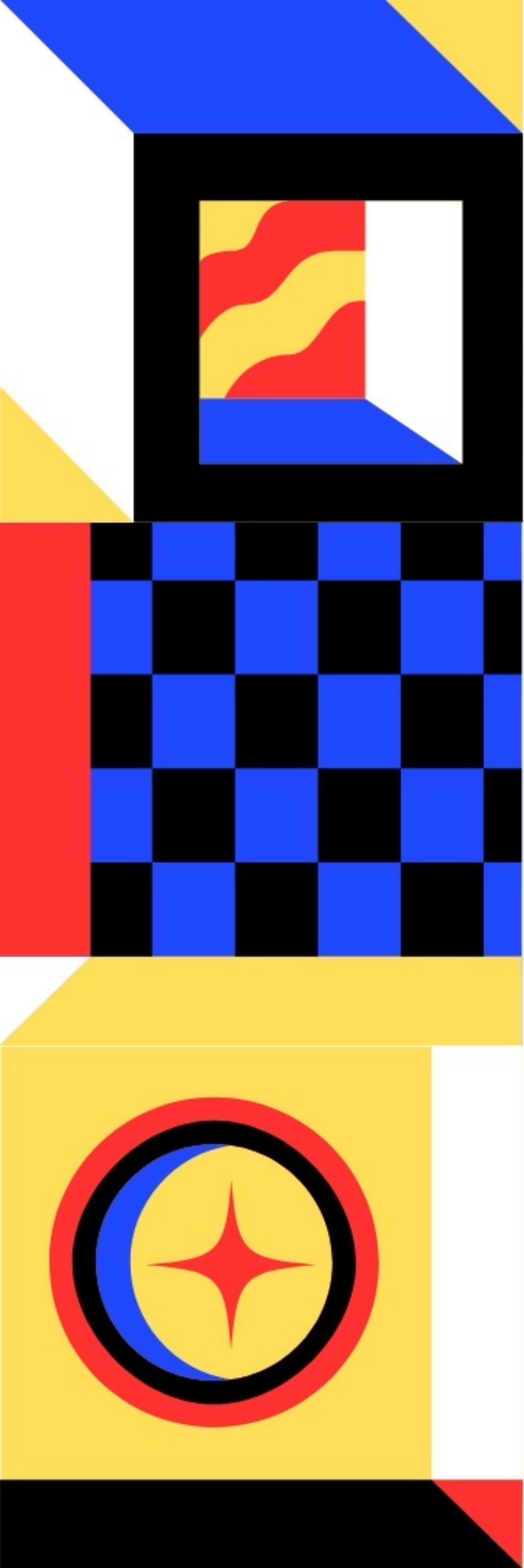




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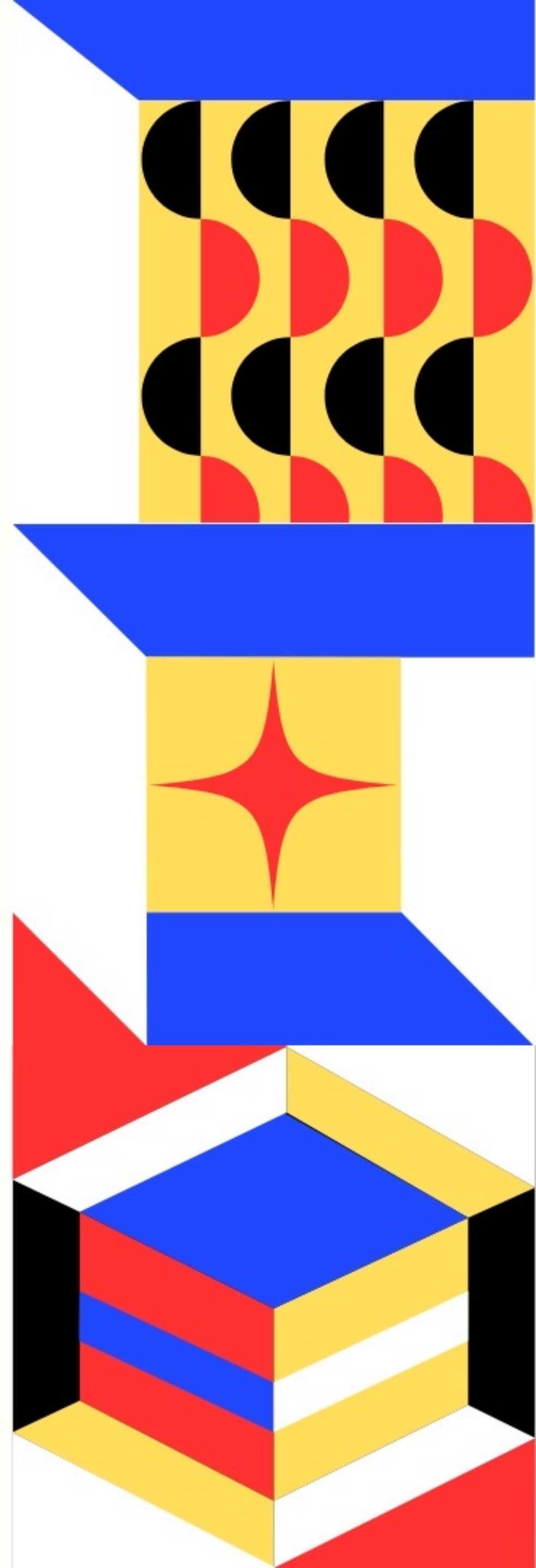
- Incoherent
- Fragile
- Fragmenting

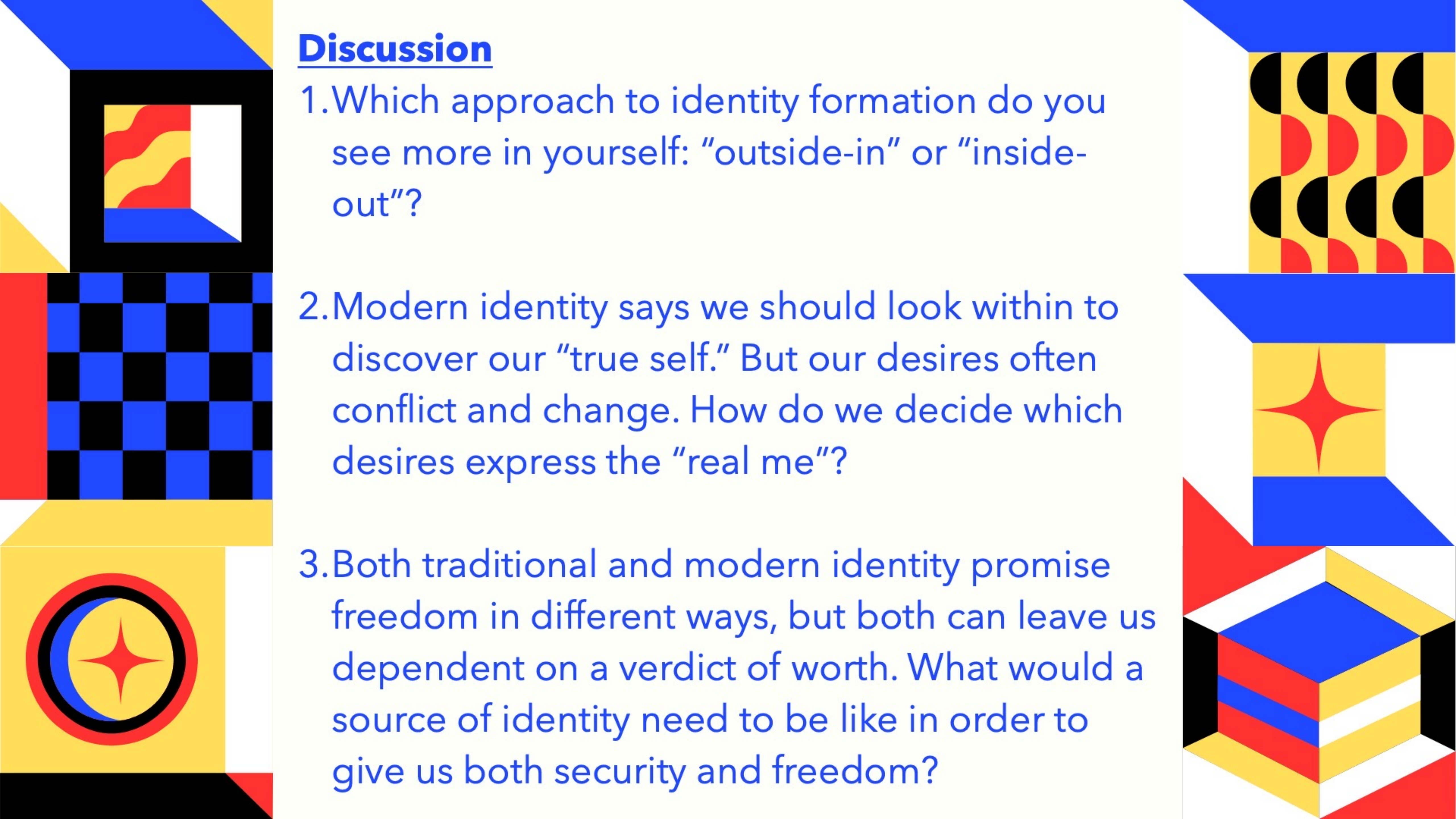




Problems with Modern Identity Formation

- Incoherent
- Fragile
- Fragmenting
- Illusion



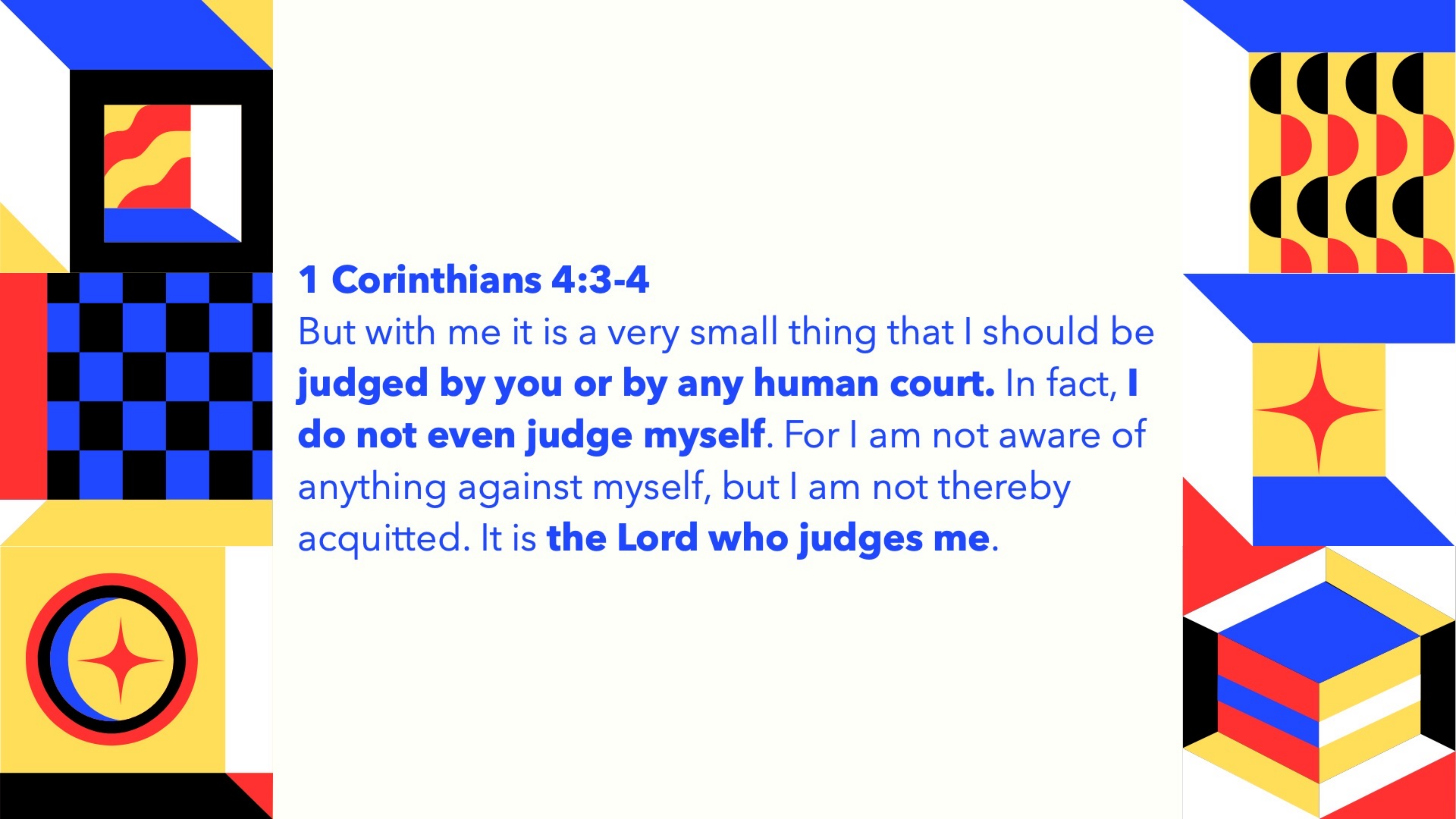


Discussion

1. Which approach to identity formation do you see more in yourself: "outside-in" or "inside-out"?
2. Modern identity says we should look within to discover our "true self." But our desires often conflict and change. How do we decide which desires express the "real me"?
3. Both traditional and modern identity promise freedom in different ways, but both can leave us dependent on a verdict of worth. What would a source of identity need to be like in order to give us both security and freedom?

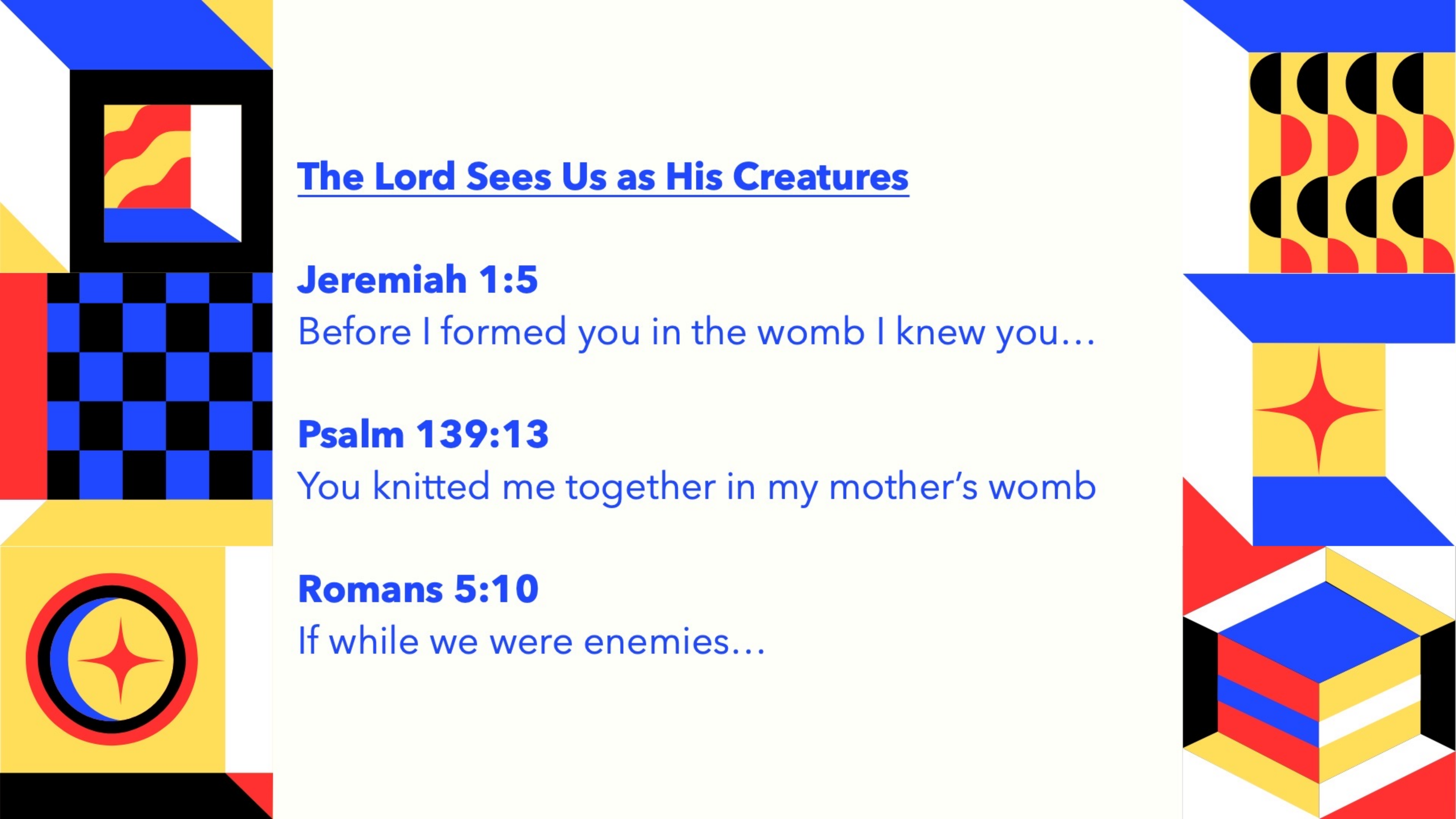
The slide features abstract geometric patterns on the left and right sides. The left side includes a blue and yellow triangular pattern at the top, a black square with a red and yellow wavy pattern inside, a blue and black checkerboard pattern, and a yellow square with a red and blue circular pattern. The right side includes a yellow and black pattern with red and black semi-circles, a blue horizontal bar, a yellow square with a red star, a blue horizontal bar, and a 3D cube-like structure with blue, red, and yellow faces.

An Identity from Above



1 Corinthians 4:3-4

But with me it is a very small thing that I should be **judged by you or by any human court.** In fact, **I do not even judge myself.** For I am not aware of anything against myself, but I am not thereby acquitted. It is **the Lord who judges me.**



The Lord Sees Us as His Creatures

Jeremiah 1:5

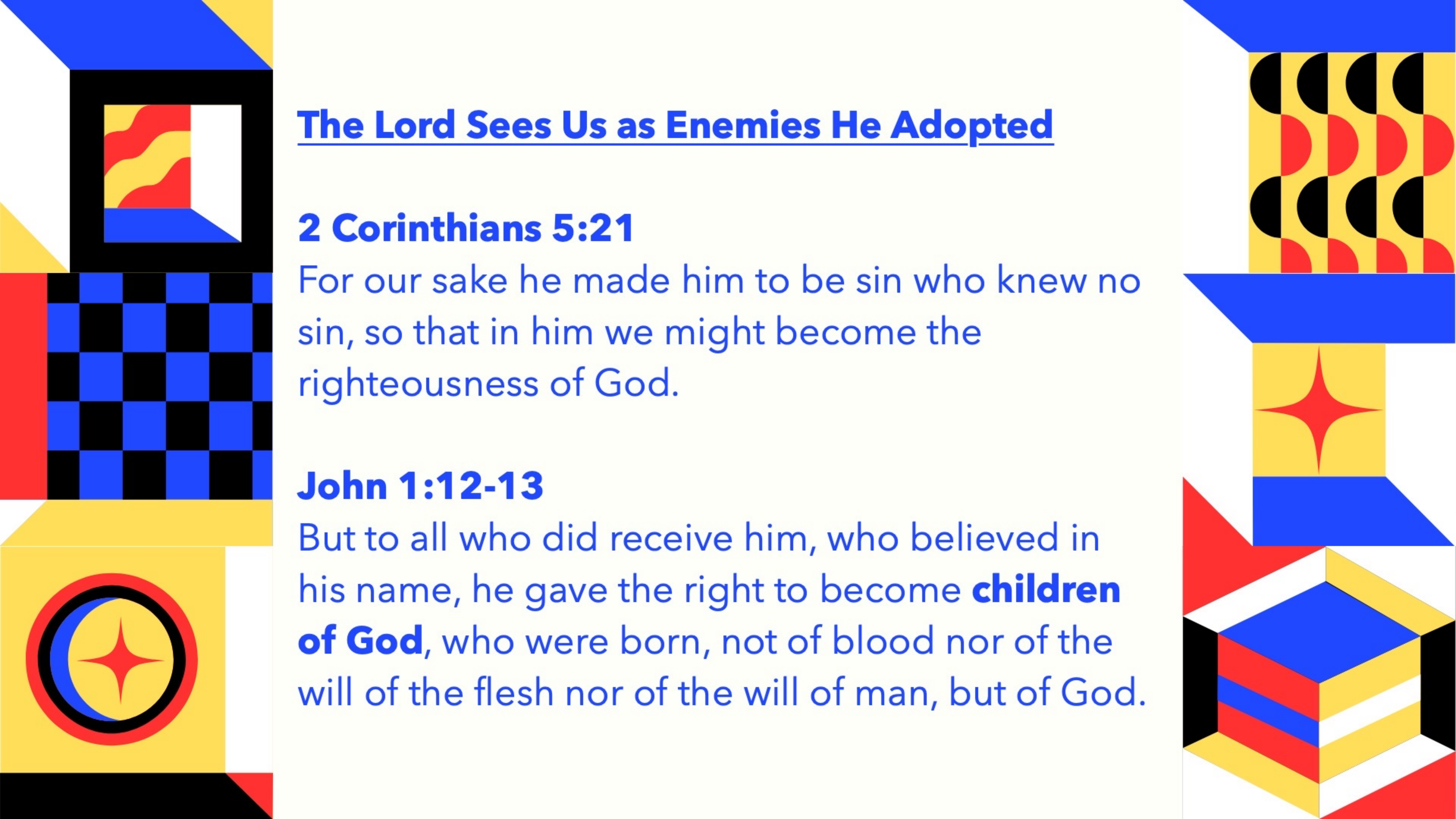
Before I formed you in the womb I knew you...

Psalms 139:13

You knitted me together in my mother's womb

Romans 5:10

If while we were enemies...



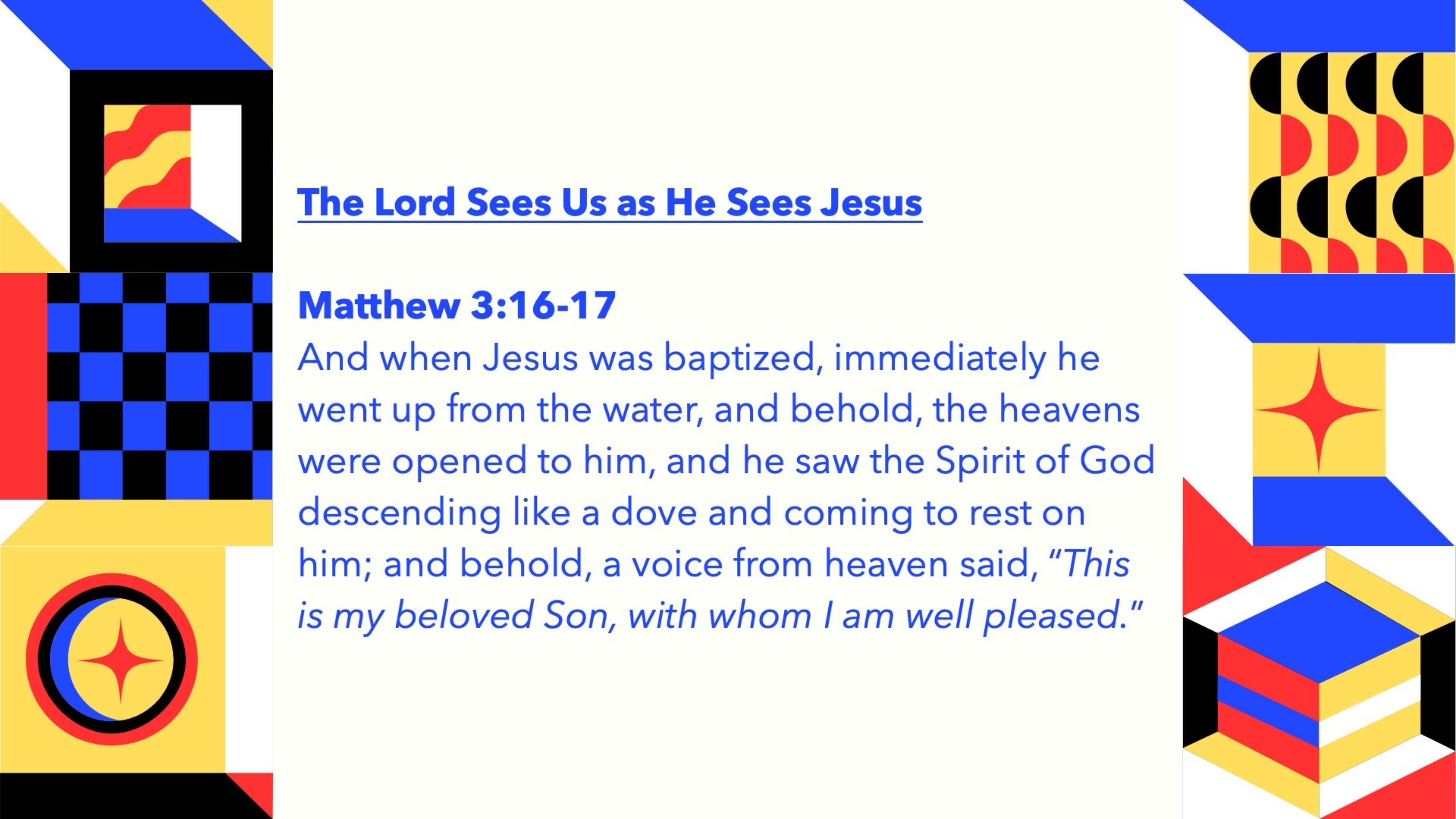
The Lord Sees Us as Enemies He Adopted

2 Corinthians 5:21

For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

John 1:12-13

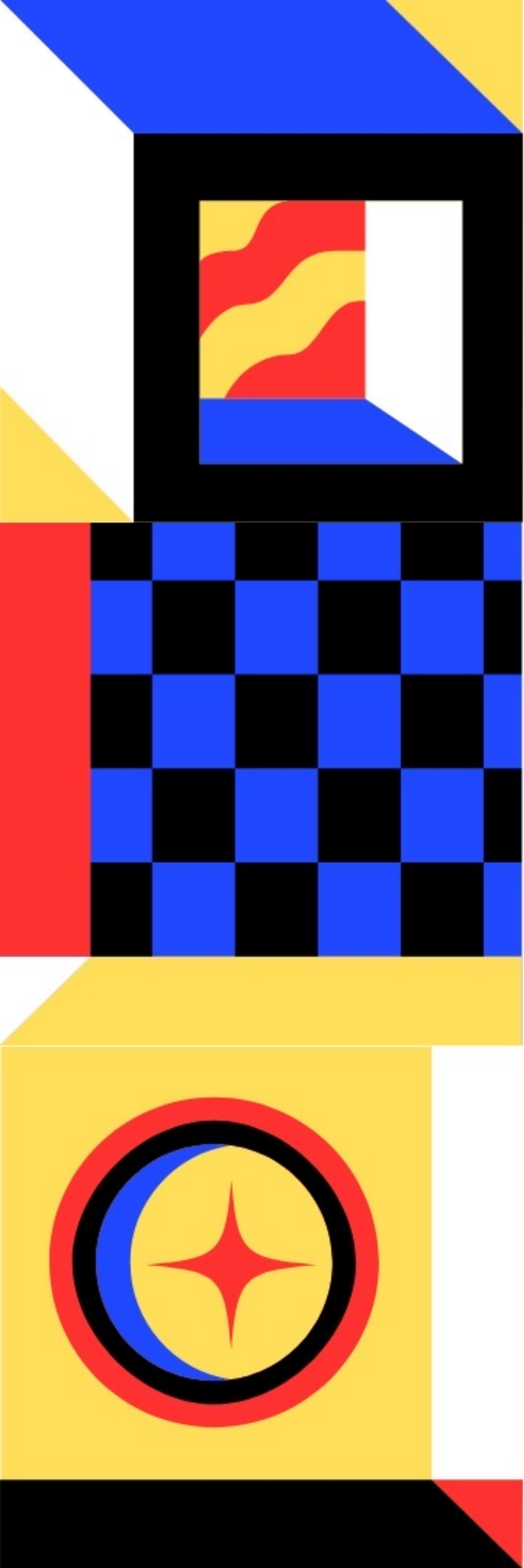
But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become **children of God**, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.



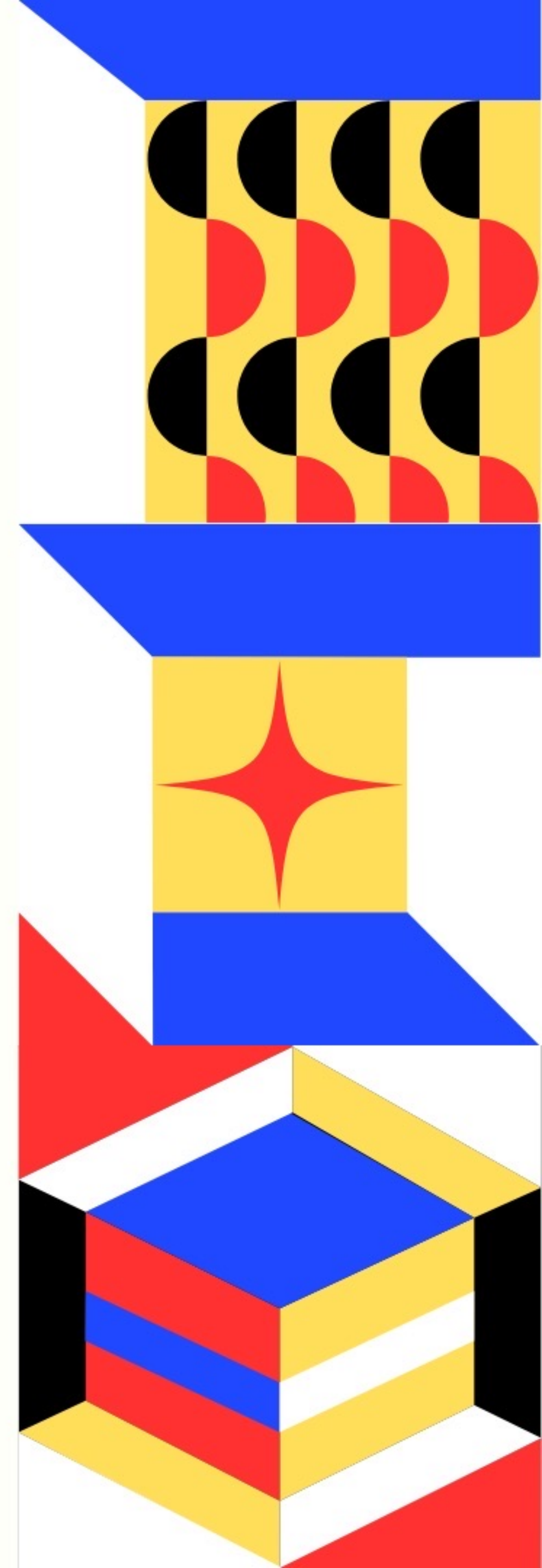
The Lord Sees Us as He Sees Jesus

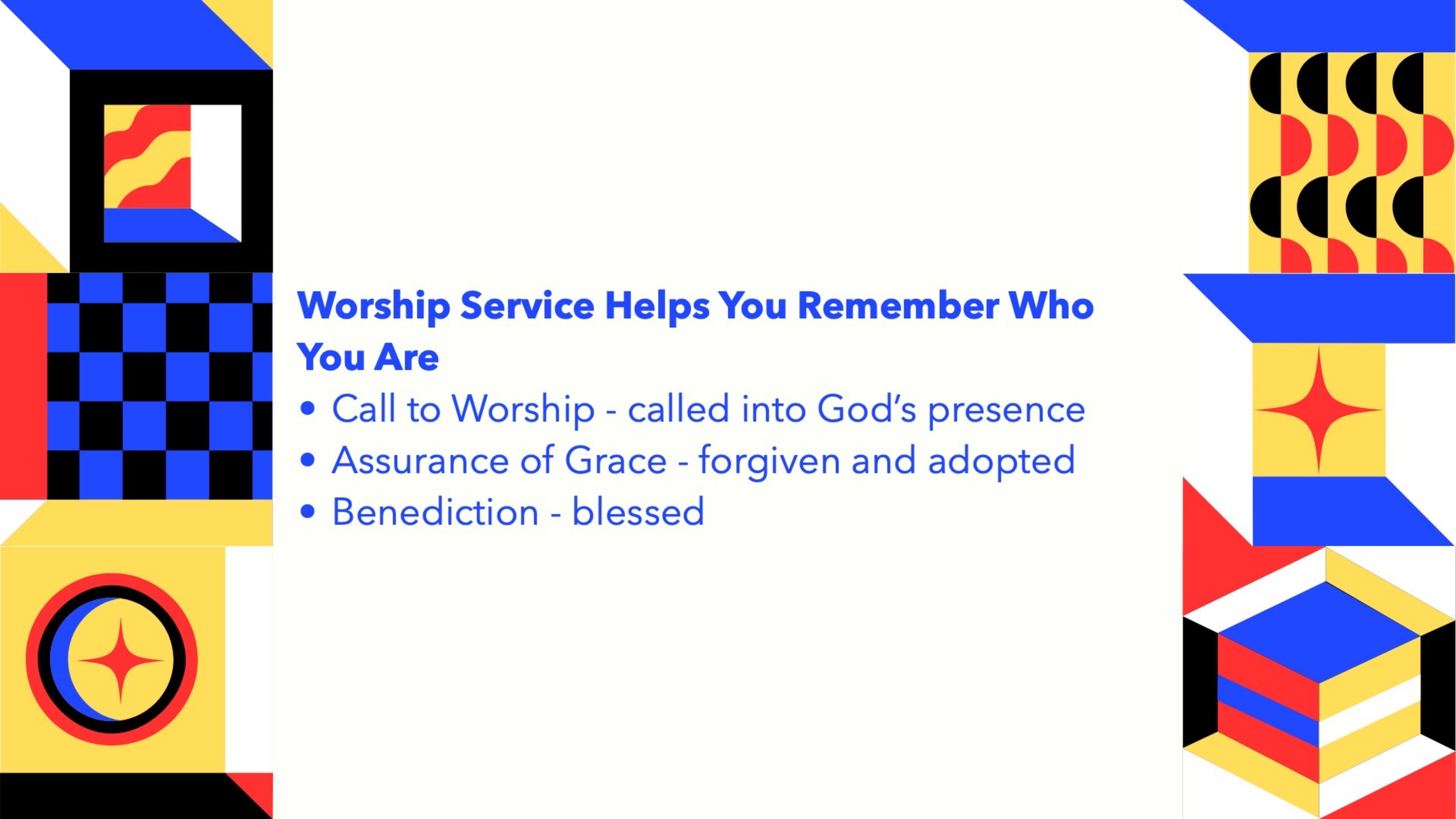
Matthew 3:16-17

And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; and behold, a voice from heaven said, "*This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.*"



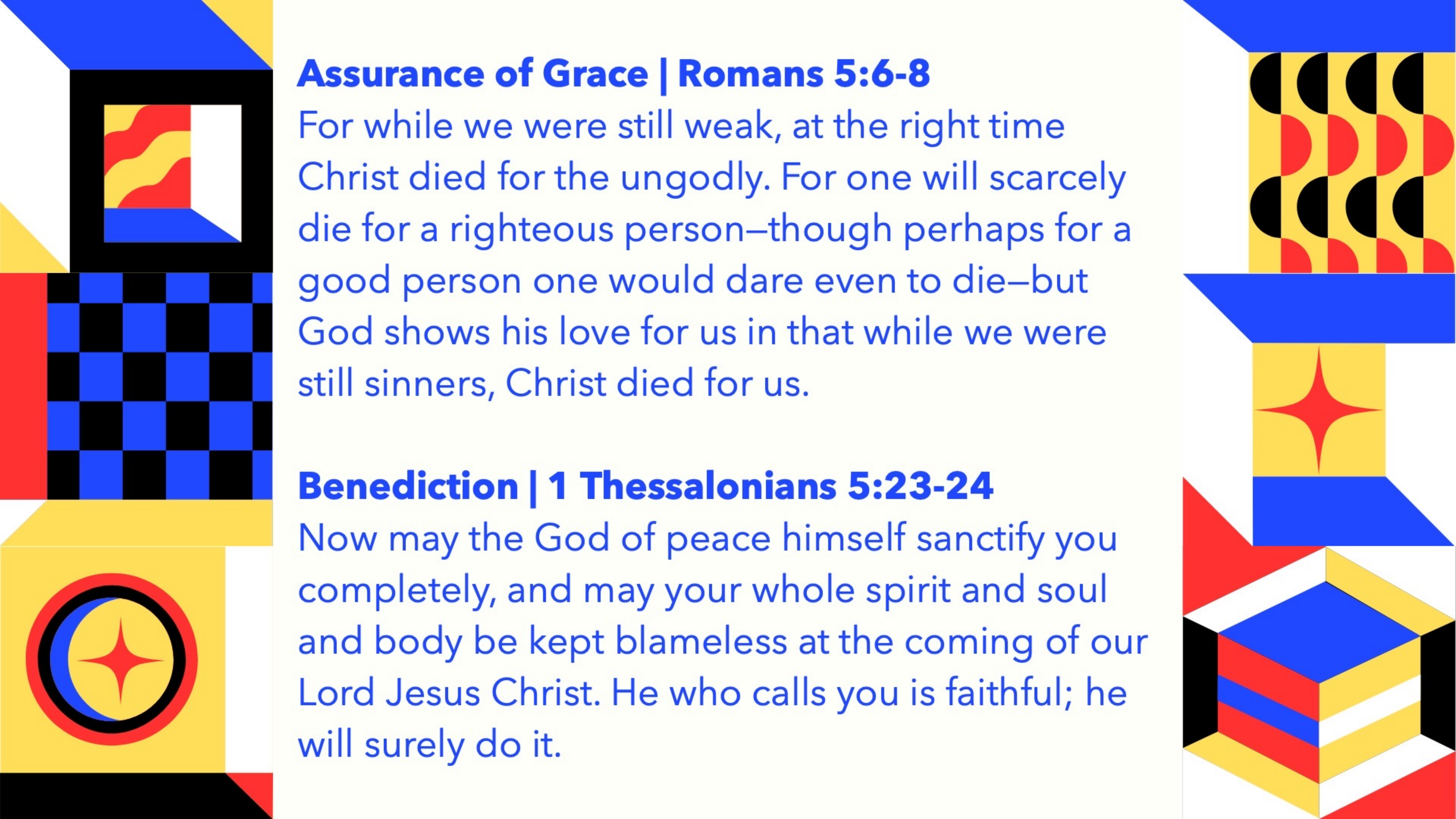
**Better than both Traditional and Modern
Identity Formation**





Worship Service Helps You Remember Who You Are

- Call to Worship - called into God's presence
- Assurance of Grace - forgiven and adopted
- Benediction - blessed

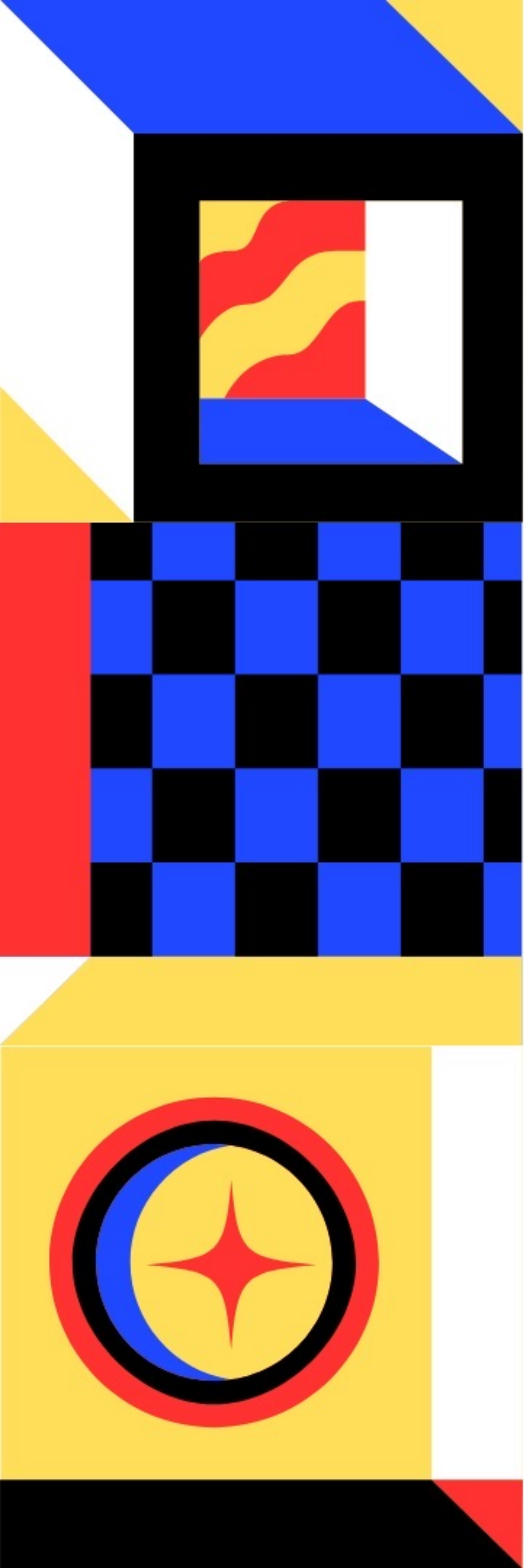


Assurance of Grace | Romans 5:6-8

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die—but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Benediction | 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

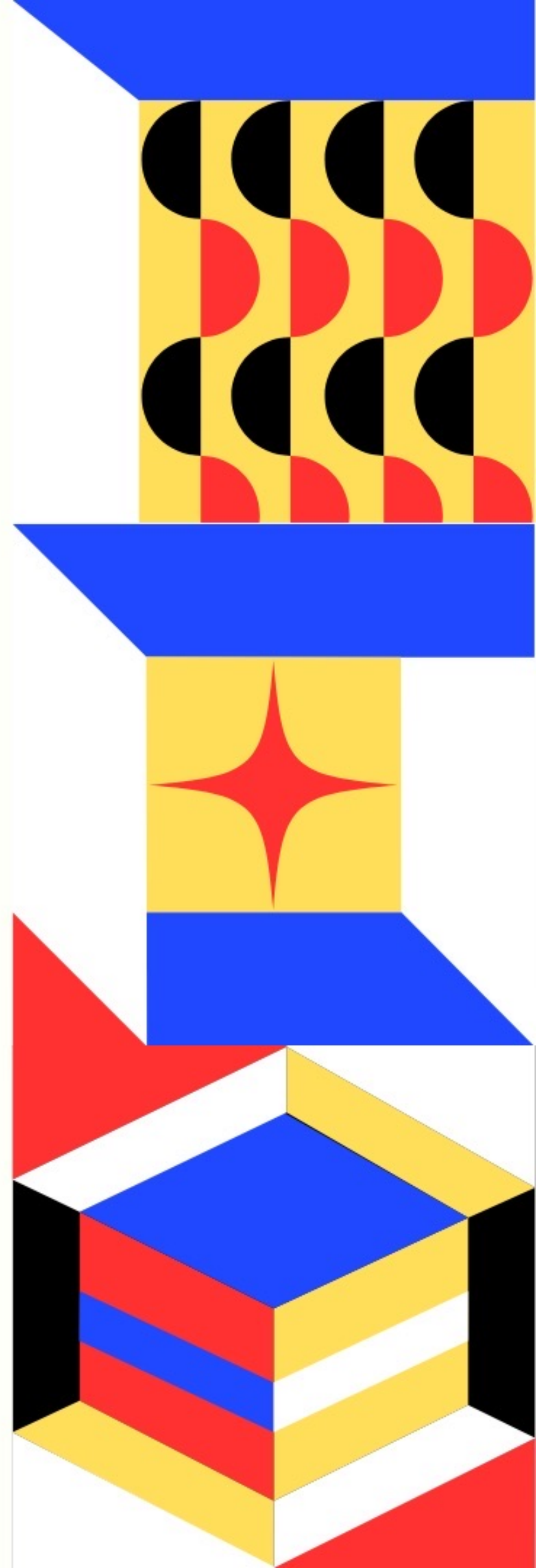
Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

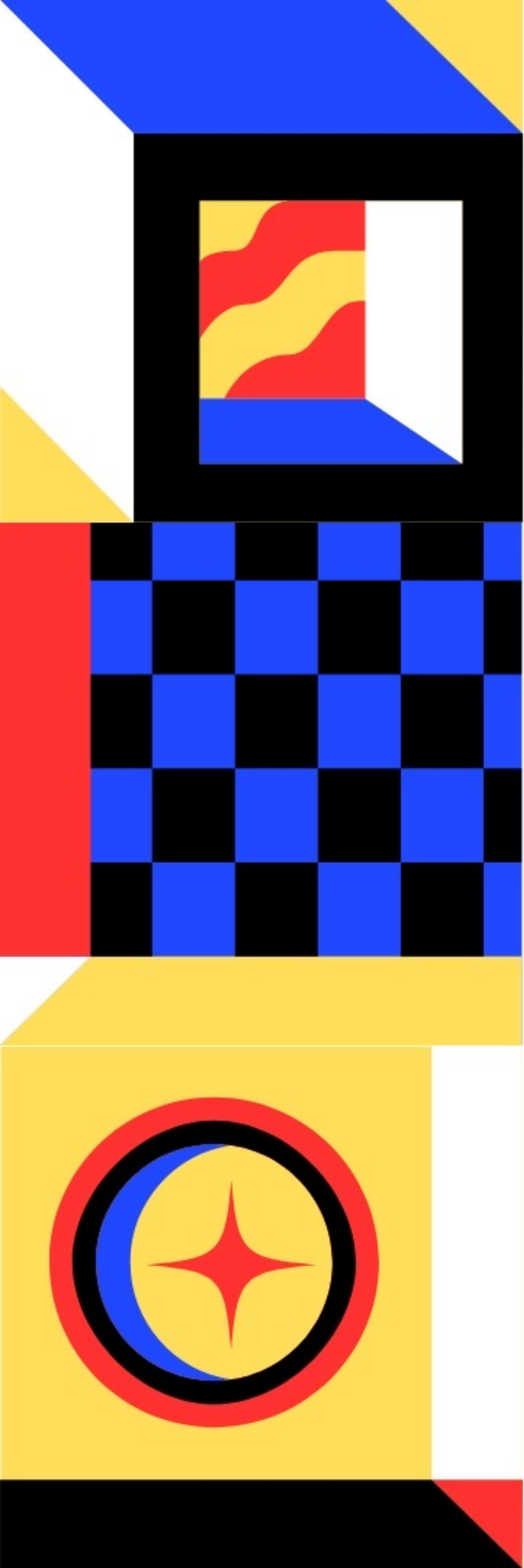


Setup and Tear Down

Who can help setup before next week?

Who can stay to help tear down tonight?





Next Week
Resurrection & Hope

