

Scripture Reading

Romans 14:1 – 23



SERMON SERIES FROM HIGH POINT CHURCH

SUSTAINING

UNITY

STICKING TOGETHER
IN FRACTIOUS TIMES

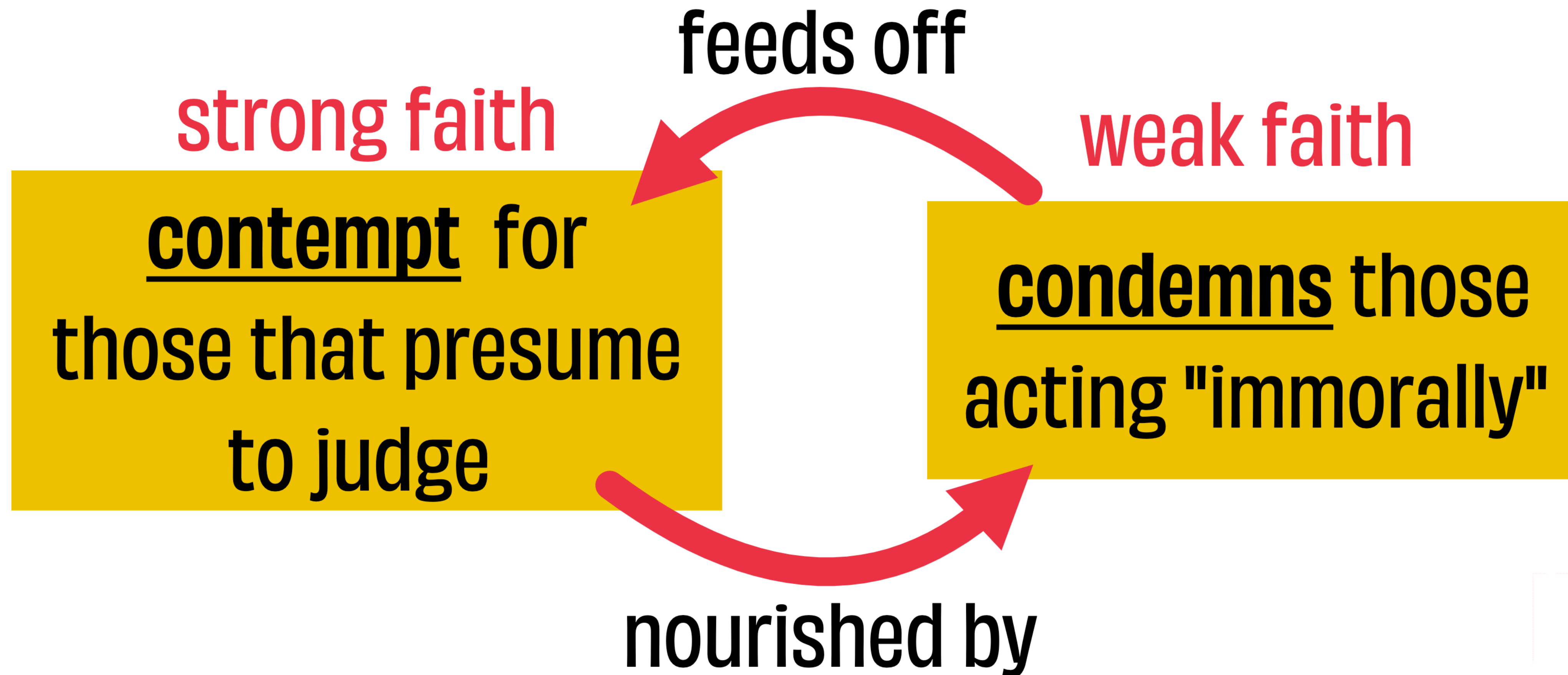
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Disputing Allies

What do you do when someone with shared ideals considers something of moral consequence and comes to the opposite conclusion as you?

The Normal Dynamic

Judgment-contempt positive feedback loop



strengthened by
legalism

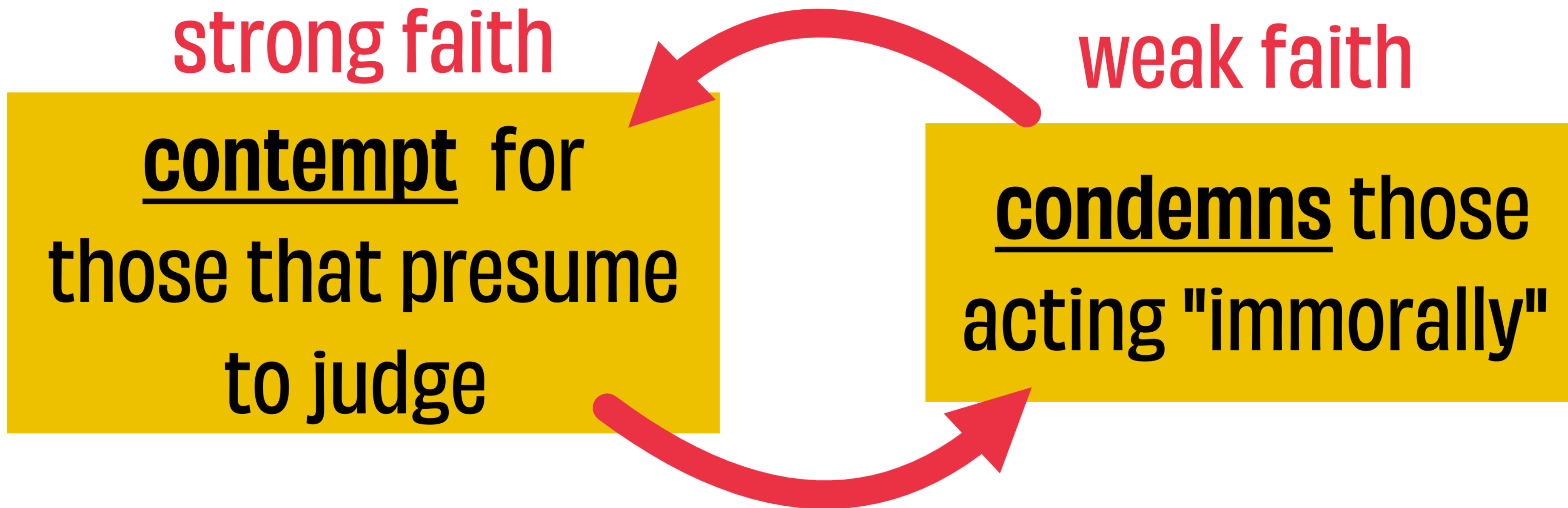
strong faith

contempt for
those that presume
to judge

weak faith

condemns those
acting "immorally"

supported by flaunting



Result: Ugly Division

Romans 14:15 – 16 Do not by your eating destroy someone for whom Christ died. Therefore do not let what you know is good be spoken of as evil.

Ruining the reputation of Jesus and faith of others is NOT a disputable matter

**God's servants are yours to
build up,
not to trip up.**

1. God's servants are *his* not ours.

**We are called to serve each other by role,
but we are not each other's servants by identity.**

Why are you firing someone else's employees?

Romans 14:4 "why do you judge someone else's servant?"

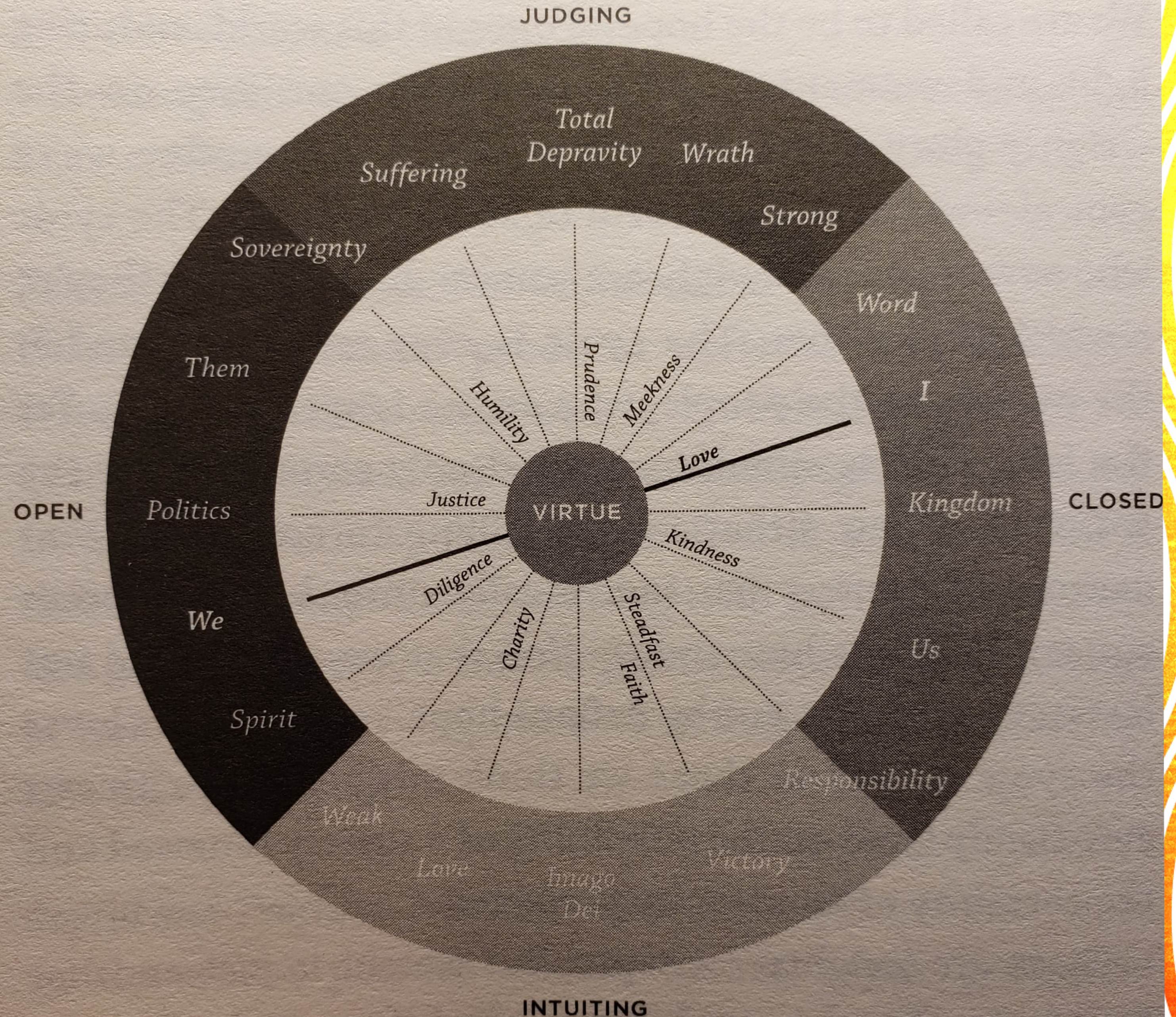
- They stand or fall to their own master (vs 4)
- You **SHOULD** make up your mind about things
- **Conscience is more important than correctness**
- We will all give our own account of ourselves



"...to the Lord."

This is both the justifying and maturing posture.

How
restraining
condemnation
and
contempt
builds
maturity.



2. Don't trip up God's stronger servants with judgment.

Self-righteousness and contempt are heightened temptations of strength.

The restrictive impulse leads to legalism

If God is maximally good, and moral failure the main problem in our relationship with God, others, and creation, then we have to identify and stop everything we are doing that is wrong.

Legalists were the first critical theorists.



3. Don't trip up God's weaker servants with dismissive contempt

Self-righteous judgment and legalism are *heightened* temptations of weakness.

Strength entails responsibility.

Being strong in one way can lead to absolute childishness in another.

You can be right about a disputable matter, and completely destructive about an indisputable one.



Real Maturity

Real maturity is the wisdom to see how your actions will affect the faith and conscience of those less mature.

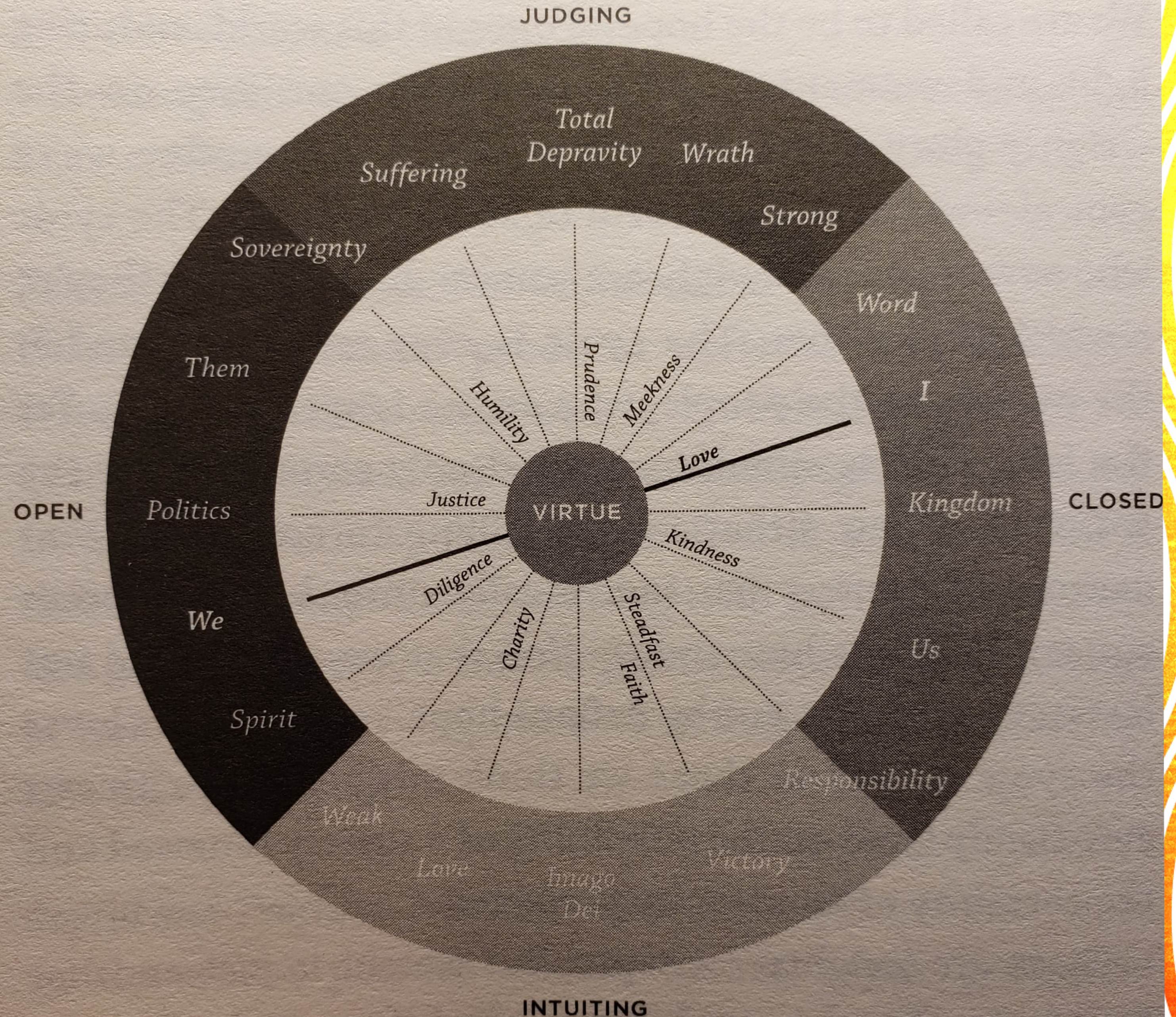
**How can you ruin God's work with God's freedom?
Is that what God's conscientious servant would do?**



"...to the Lord."

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