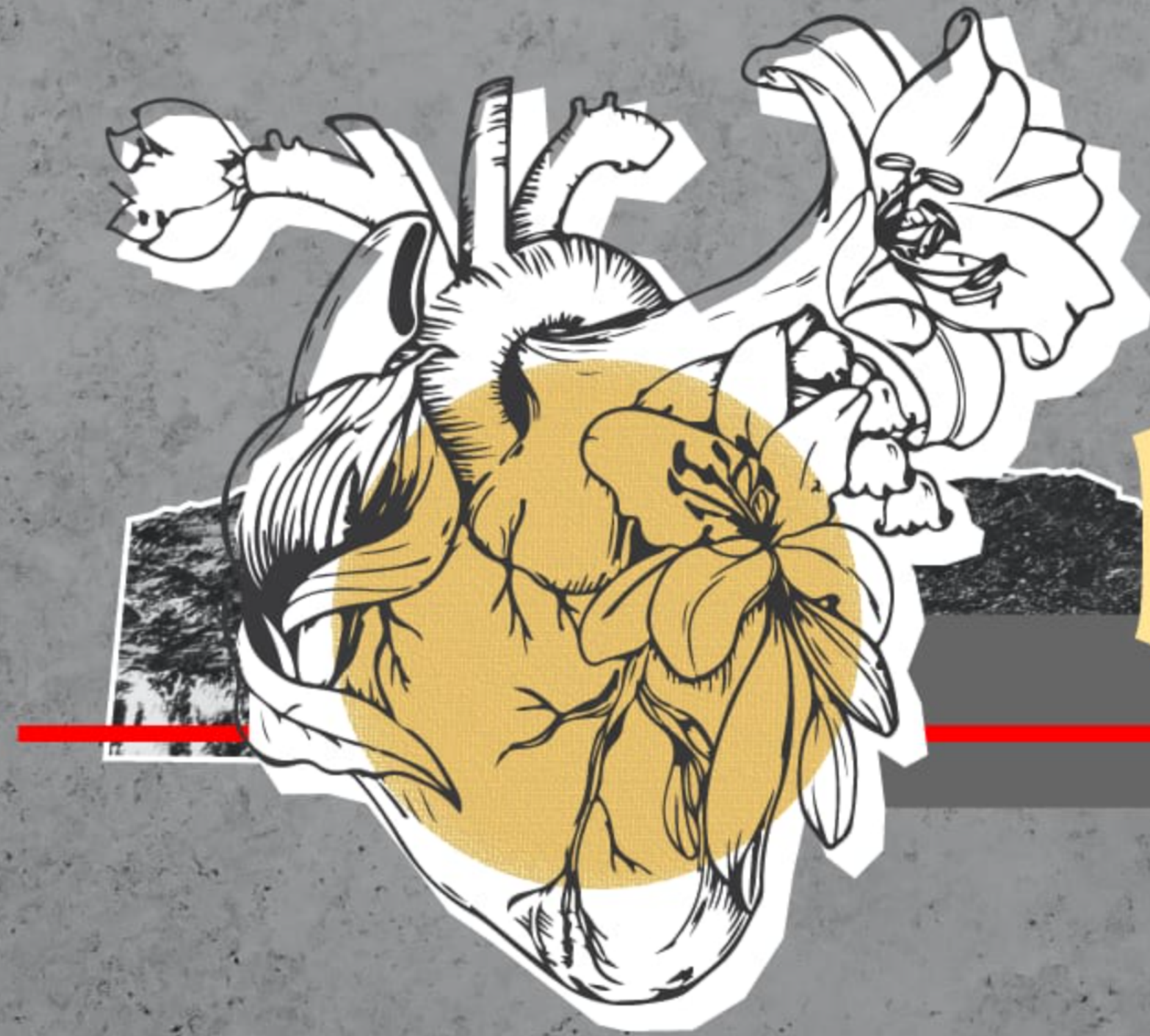


A background graphic on the left side of the slide featuring a topographic map with white contour lines on a light gray background. A large, textured gold circle is positioned behind the word 'scripture'.

scripture

MATTHEW 5:13 – 20



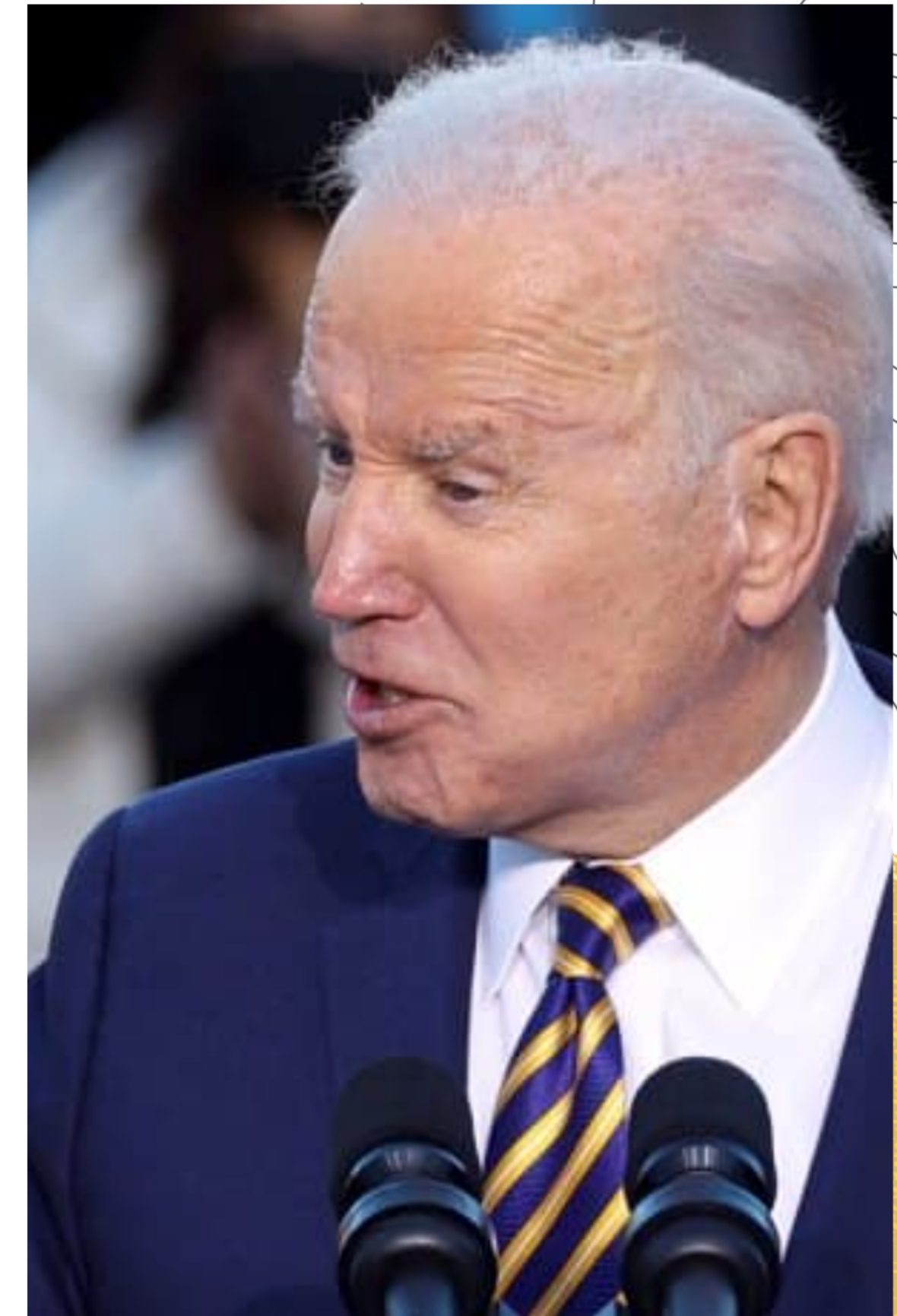
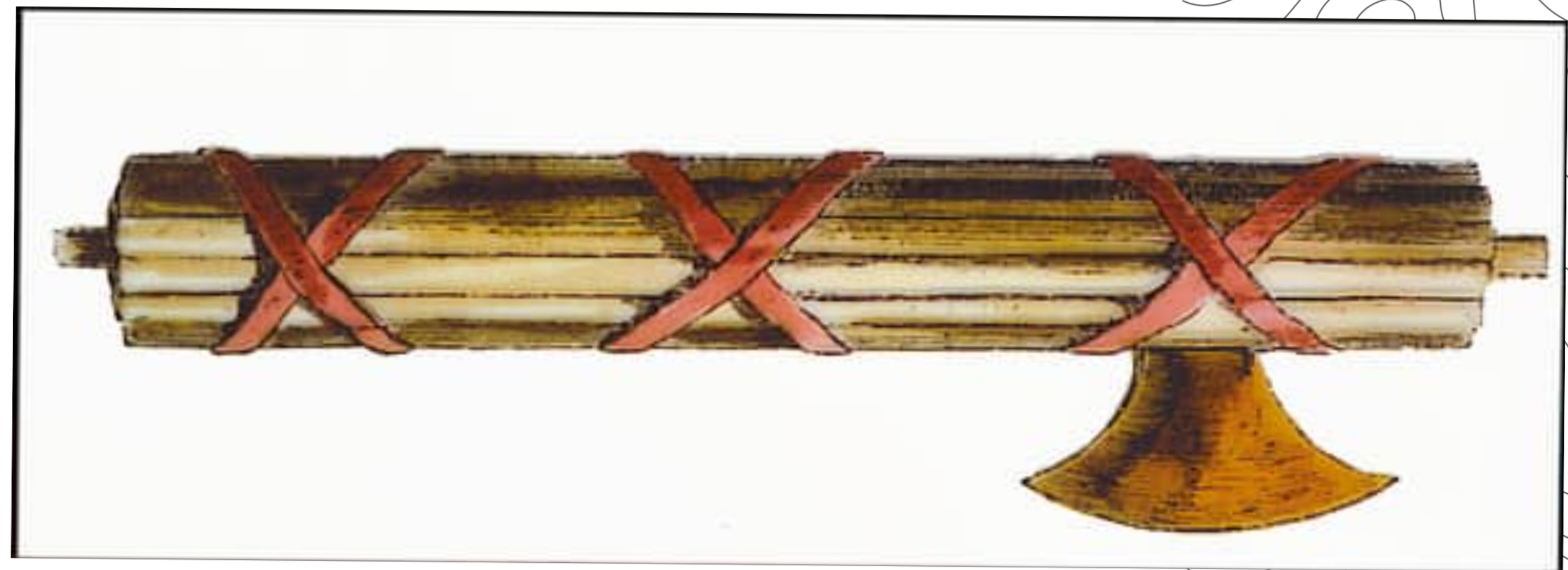
ezekiel

FINDING SPIRITUAL GRAVITY
IN THE GLORY OF GOD

Justice When Everything is Political



Politization is
when political
loyalty is
everything



Justice When Everything is Spiritual

Ezekiel:

Idolatry is detestable

Sin is destructive

Injustice is demoralizing

Violence is dehumanizing



To God, all of these are connected

When everything is political...

**Christ's church is political,
but must not be politicized.**

1. The church is political
because it is spiritual.

Political:

That which concerns the "polis" (the city). Regarding the administration of the workings of shared public life. Usually determining the application of justice and liberty.



Is Christian faith political?

Misunderstanding – Jesus, John the Baptist...

Creation mandate: "Take Dominion..."

Jesus: "The kingdom of God is near..."



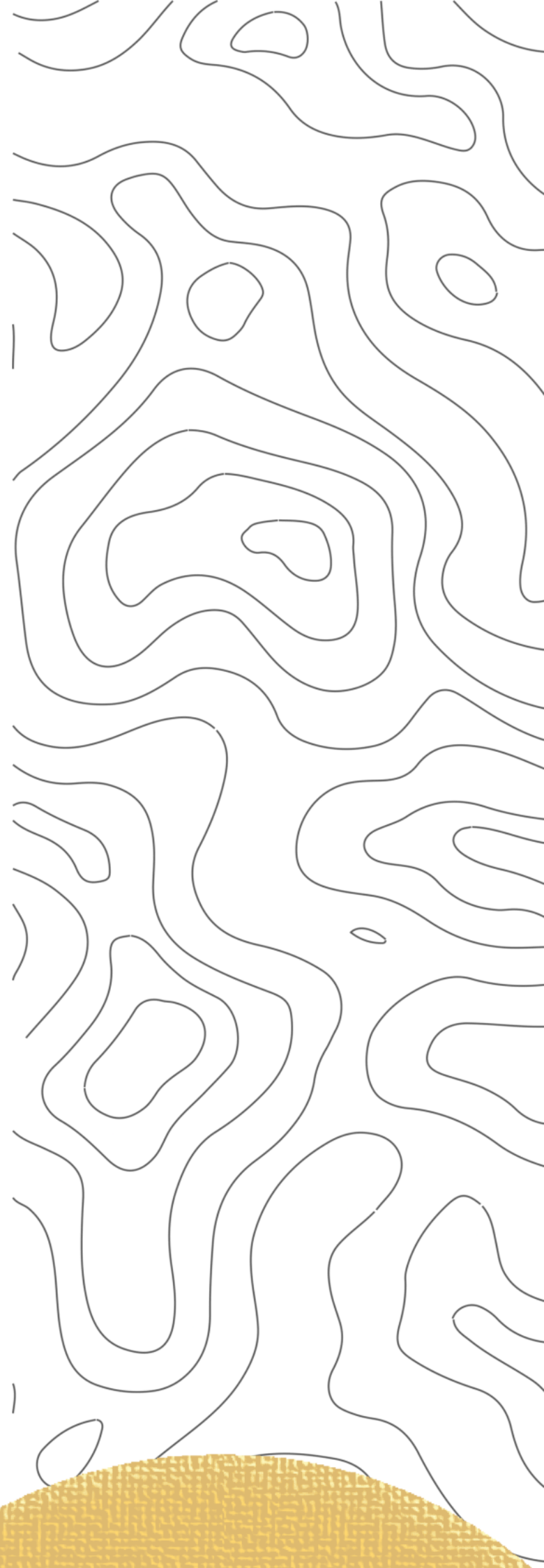
Matthew 5:13



Political scope

Justice – What does people's dignity entitle them to?

Liberty – In what ways must image-bearing creatures be free to choose and associate?



Ordinary Examples

Pulpit freedom

Sending missionaries

Redressing the courts

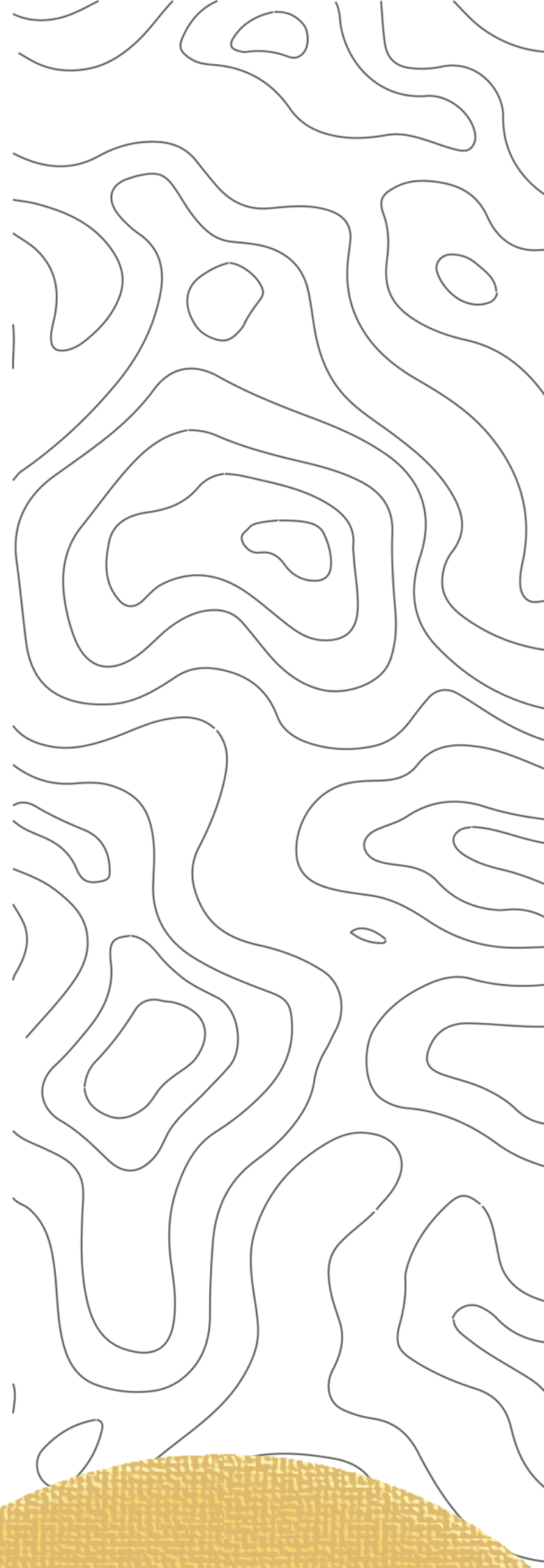
Seeing before condemning

Do what Jesus has put in your heart

Speak virtuously

Serve in public life

Use authority justly and lightly



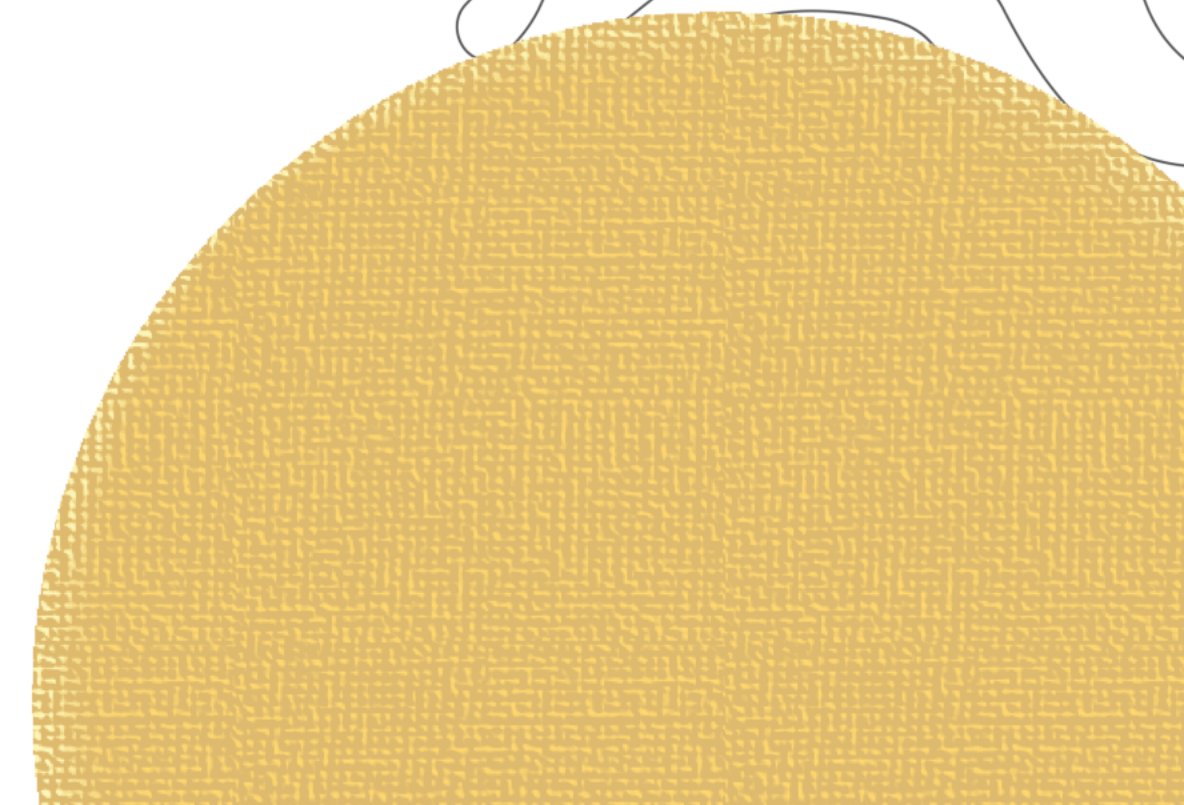
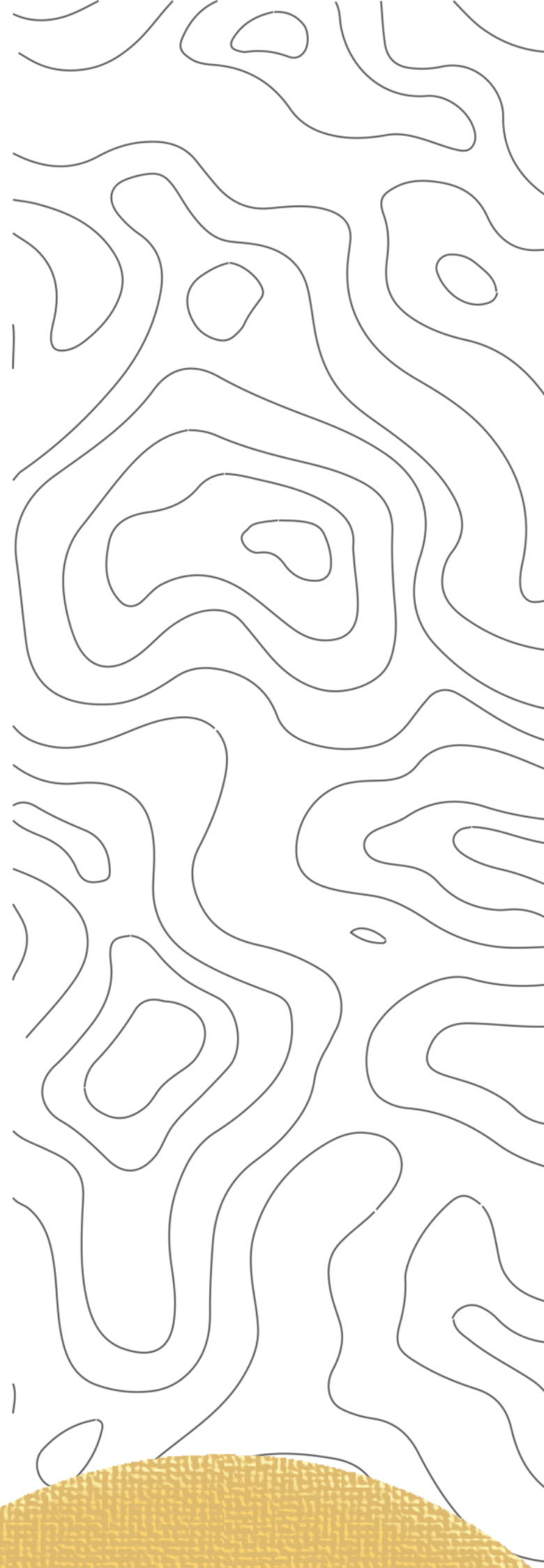
2 • The church must not
be politicized.

Politization

"Judging everything by how it helps or hurts our political party of program."



**This is
idolatry**



Ezekiel

Idolatry leads to Sin (unconstrained injustice)

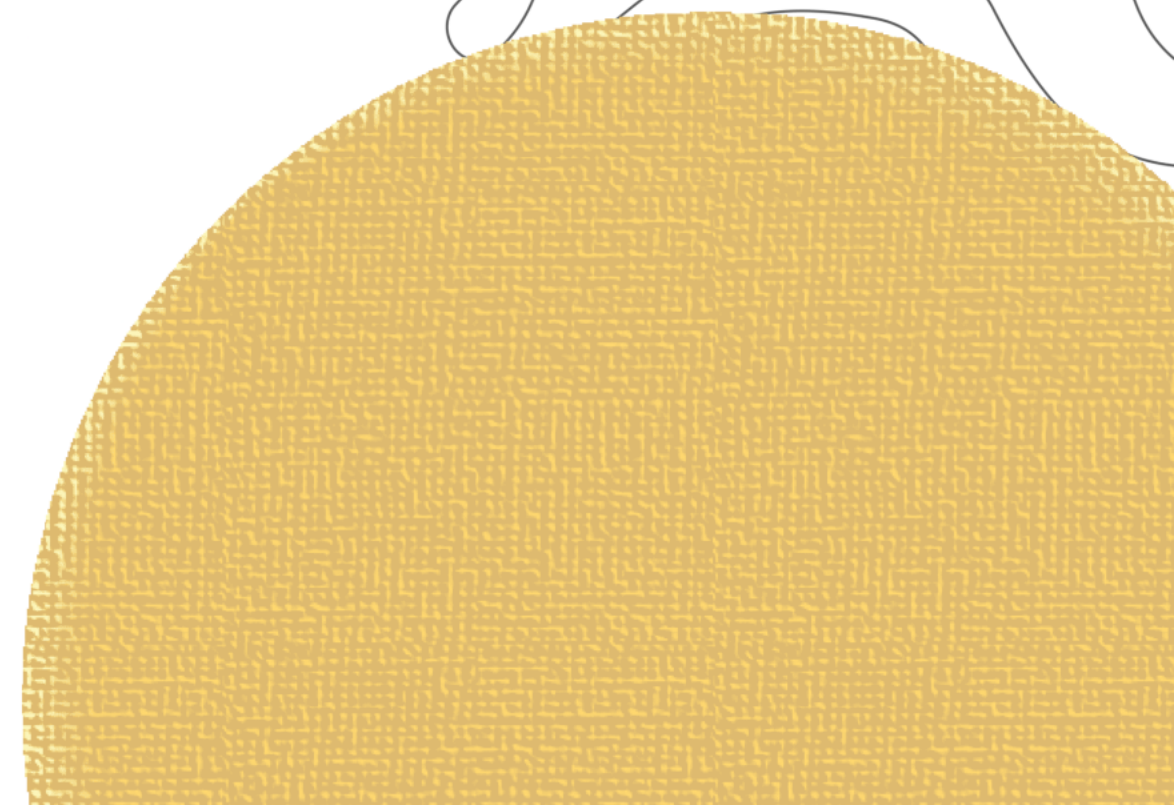
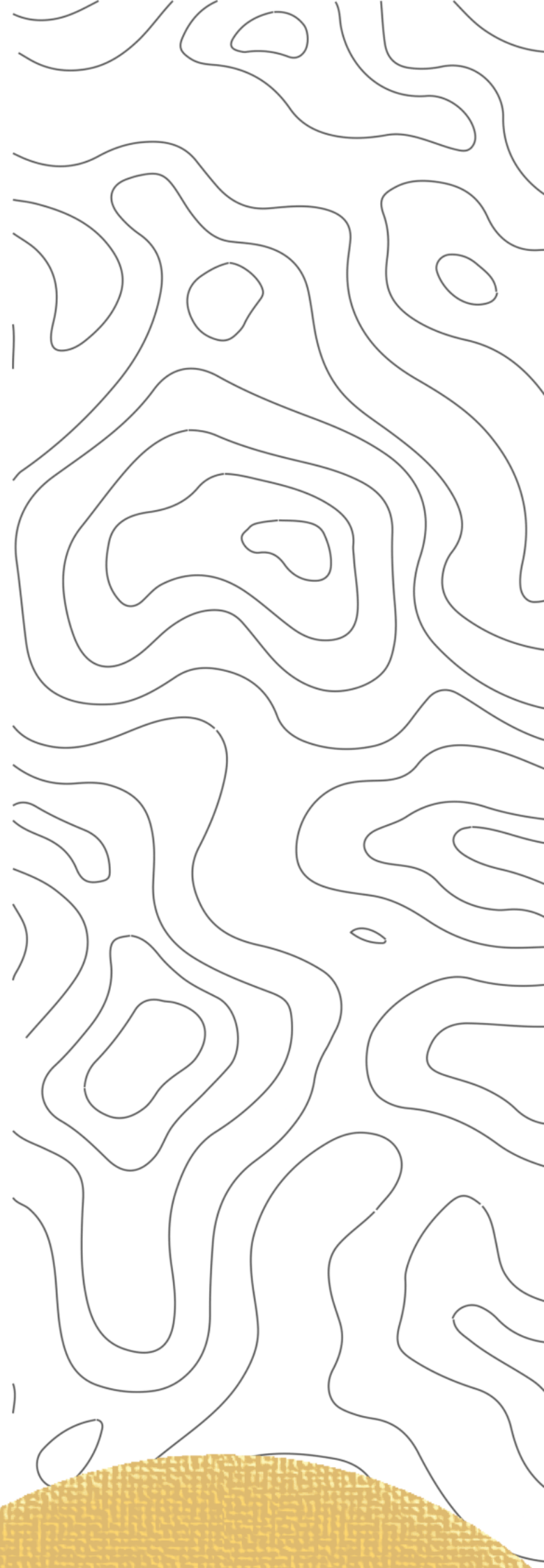
Sin leads to Injustice (constrained)

Injustice is enforced by violence



Politization

Like pornography—harder to define than it is to know when you see it.



Politization Rejected

Lobby conversation

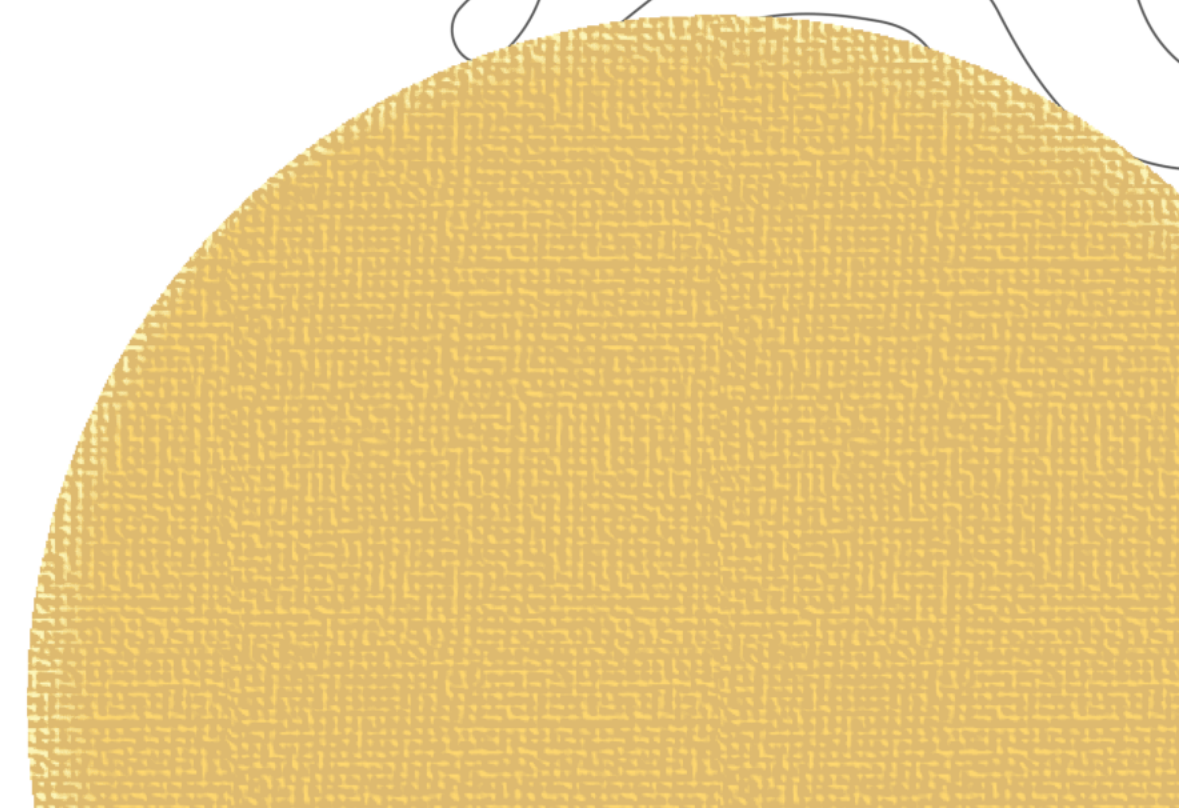
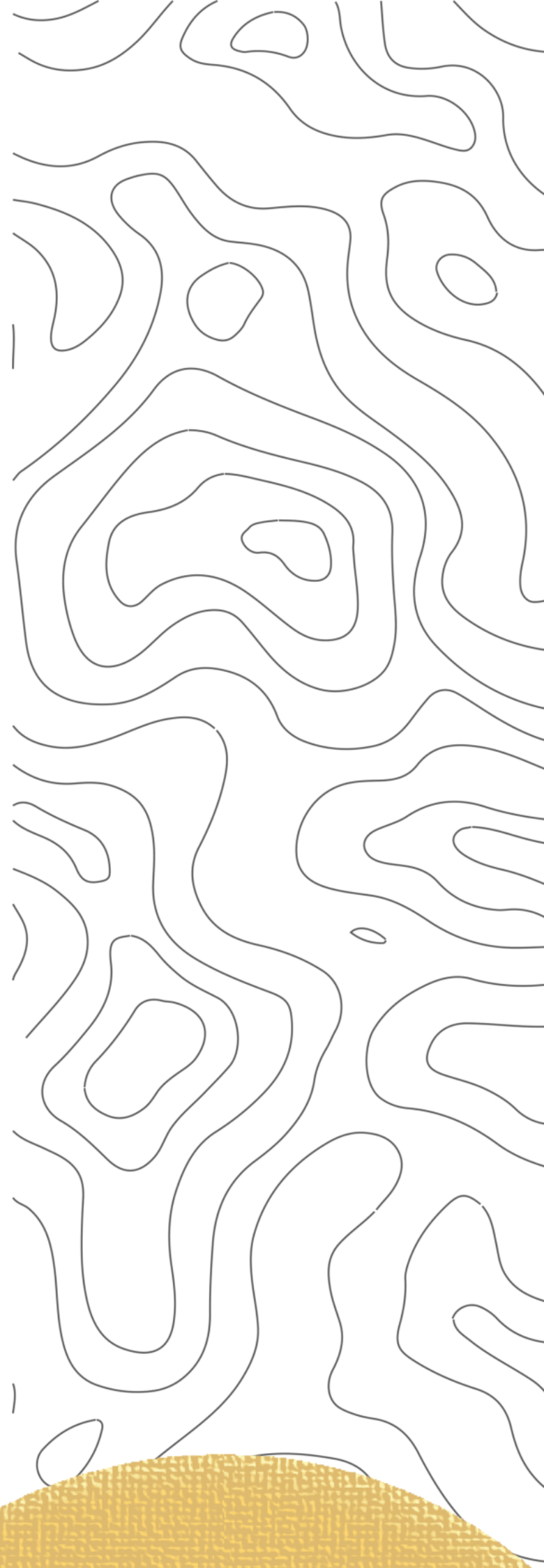
Letter to editor

Listening to challenging preaching

Collaborating without division

Breaking ranks in solidarity

Calling balls and strikes

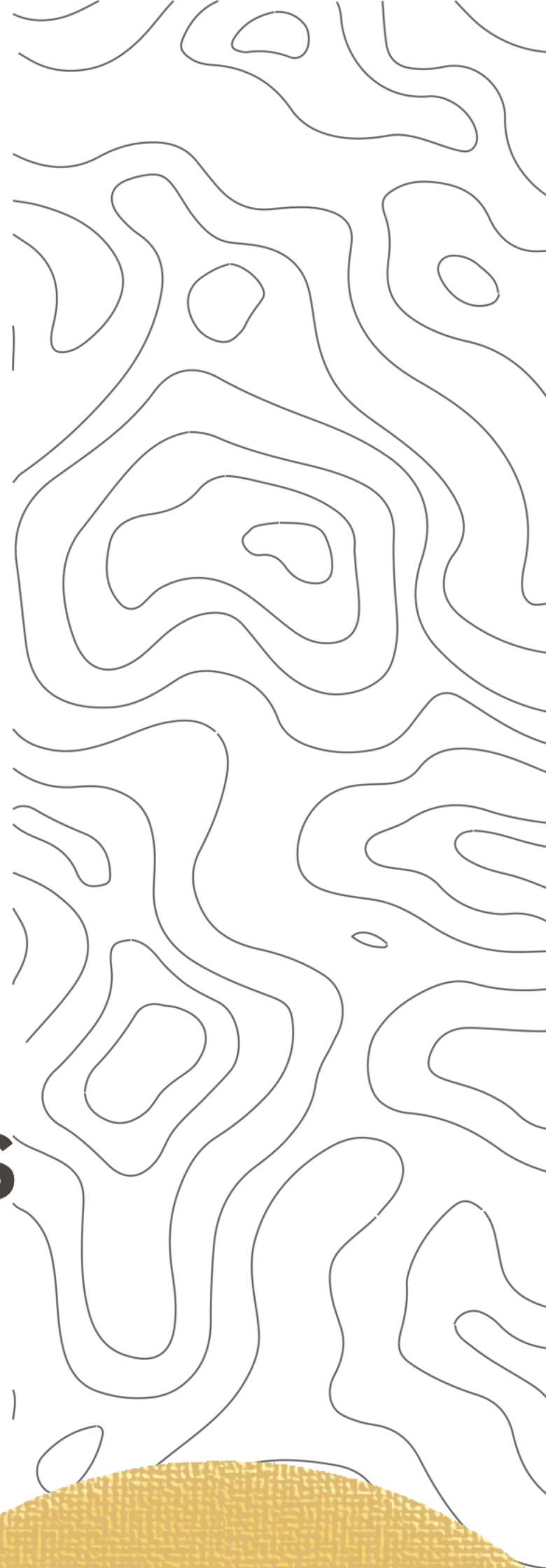


Politization Giveaways

Equating a **party** with public righteousness

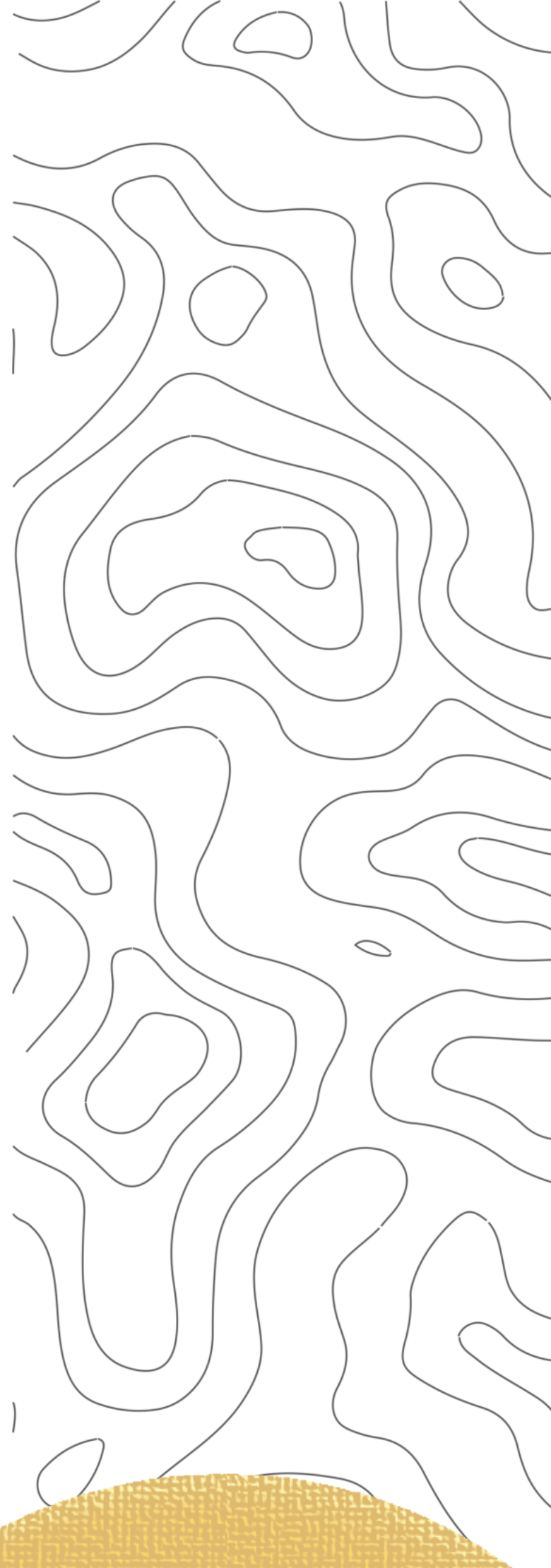
Equating a **candidate** with public righteousness

Equating a **policy** with public righteousness.



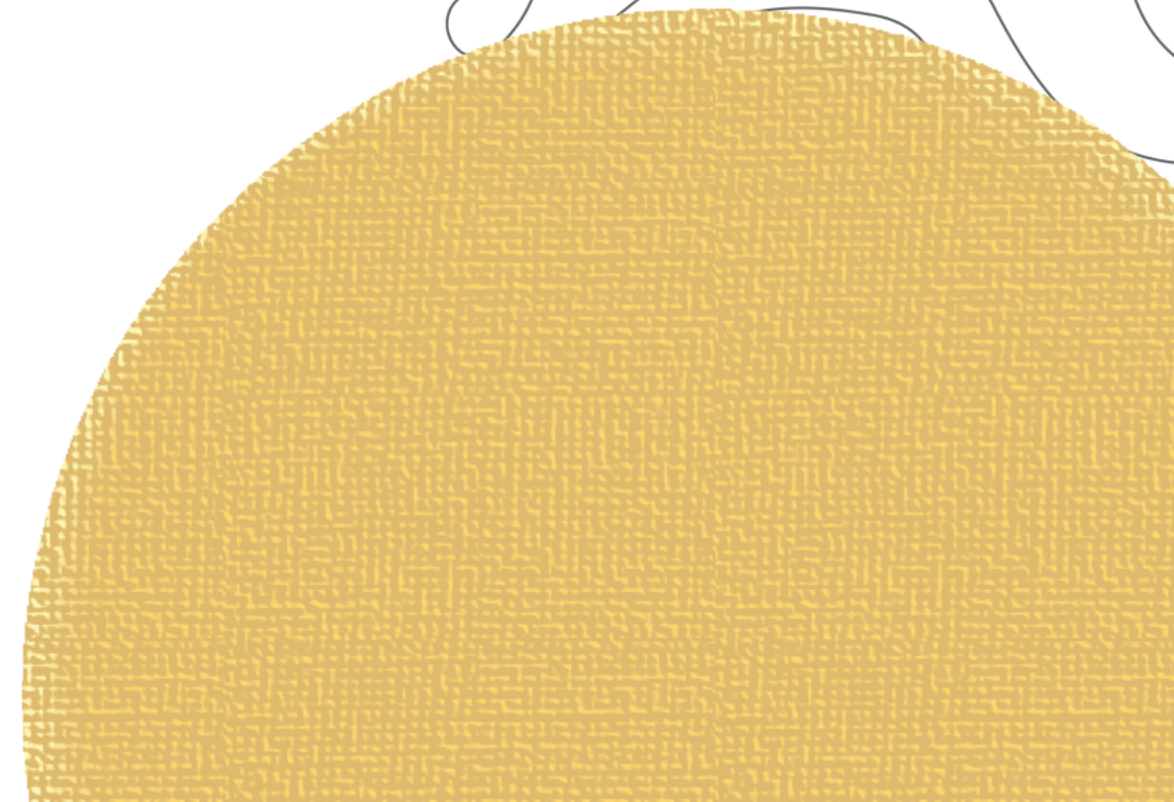
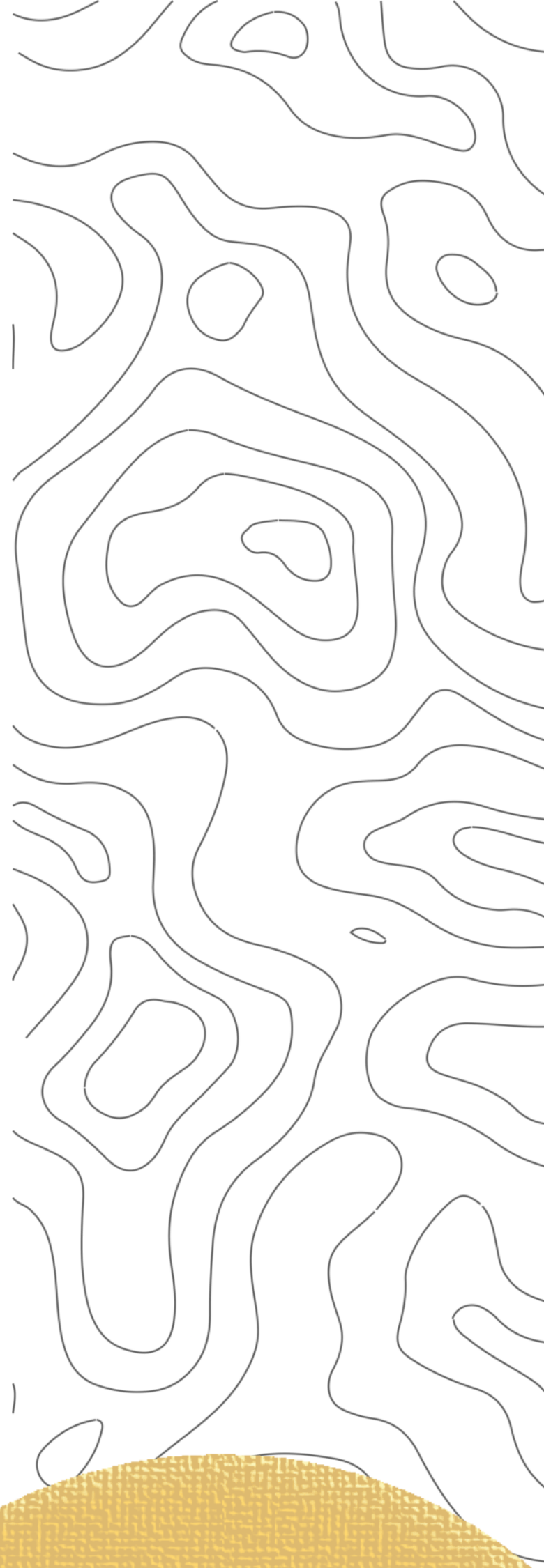
4 "Resistances"

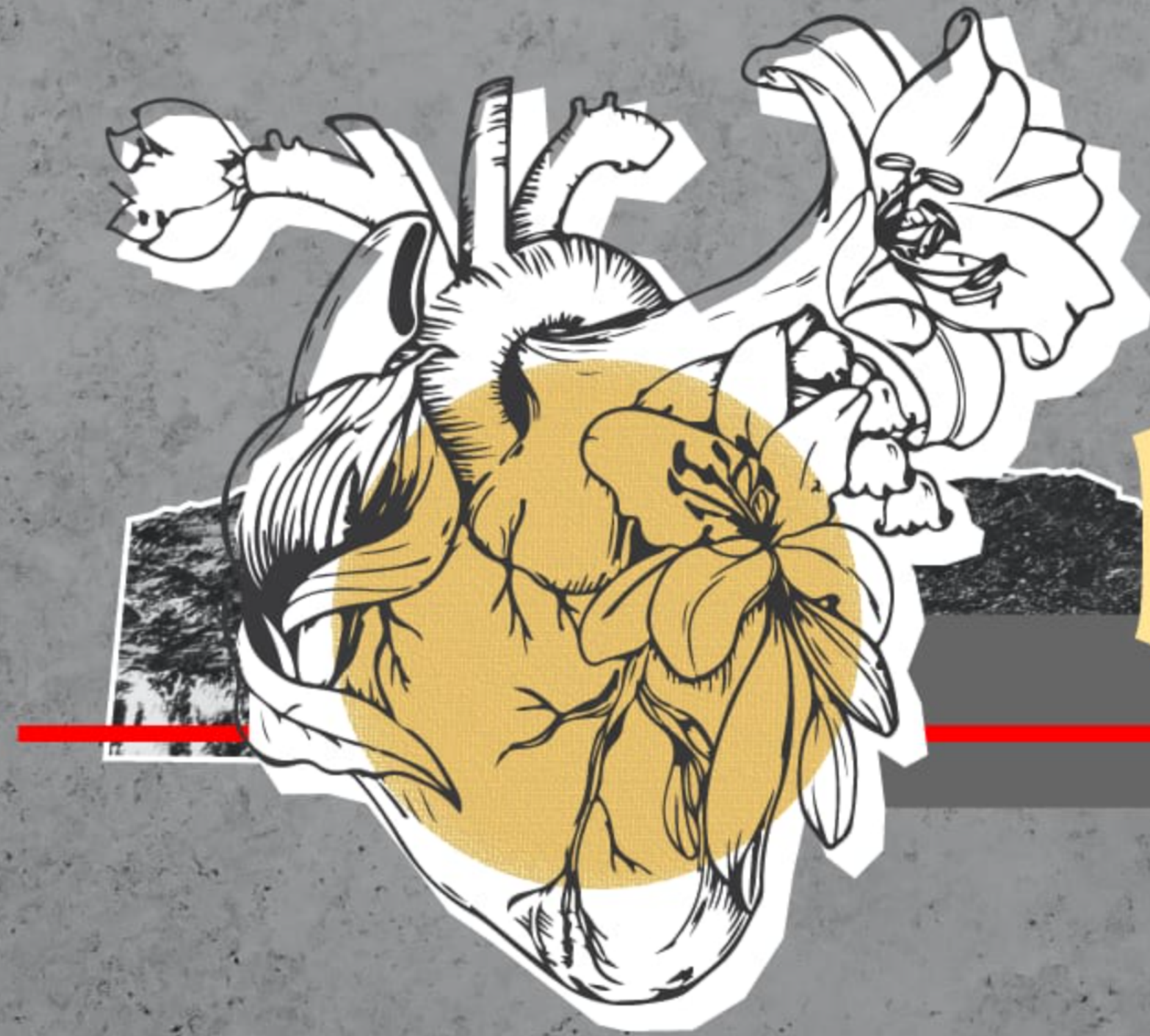
1. The Gospel of the Cross must be primary
2. Walls of hostility must be diminishing
3. Messaging is for everyone
4. Definiteness is treated with great prudence



Are you the king of the Jews?
It is as you say.

—Luke 23:3





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