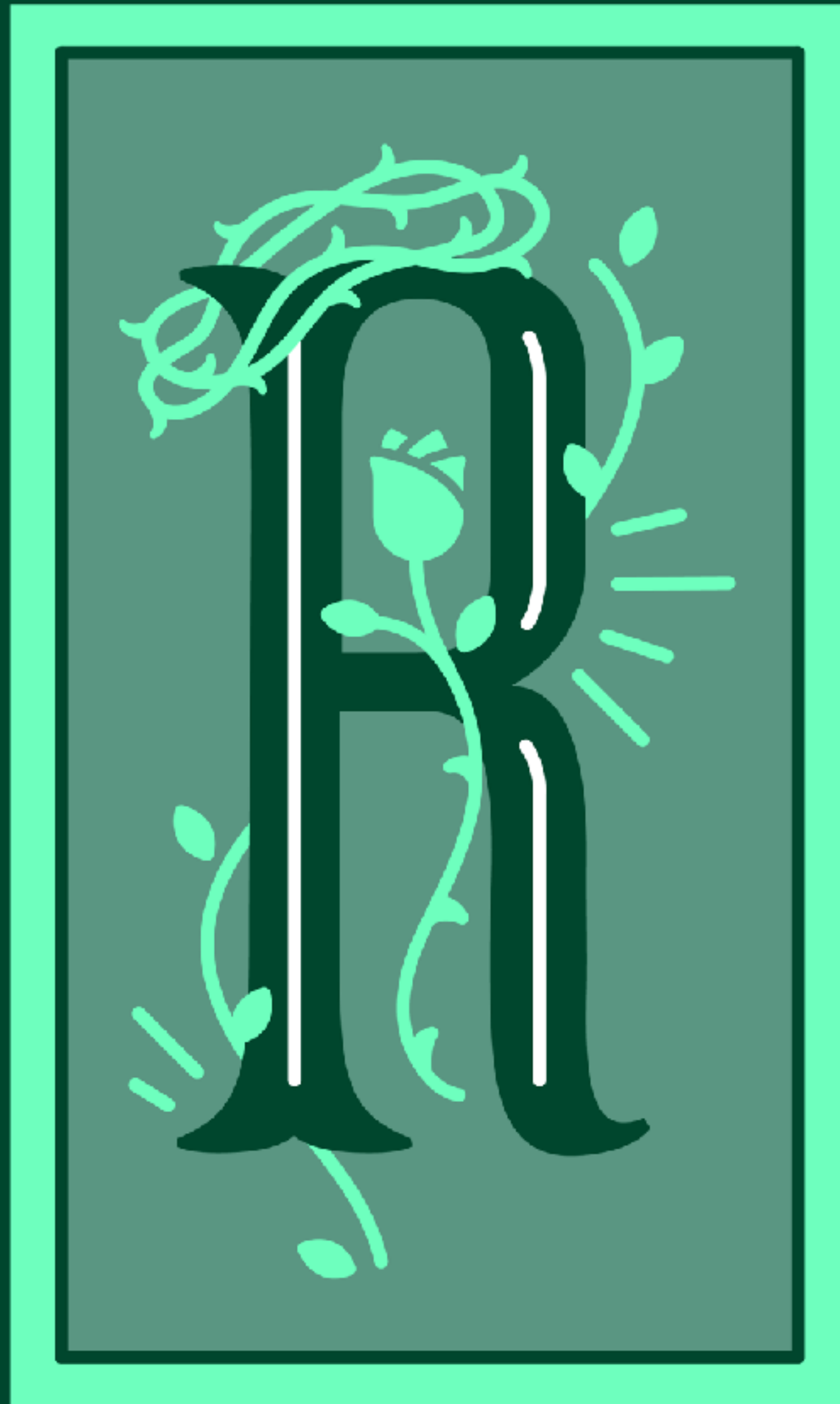


# Reign of Christ

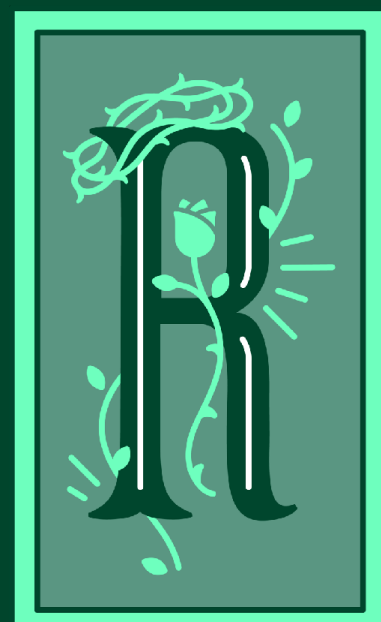
*Faith & Flourishing in Politics*

Rev. Jonathan M. Romig - Fall 2021





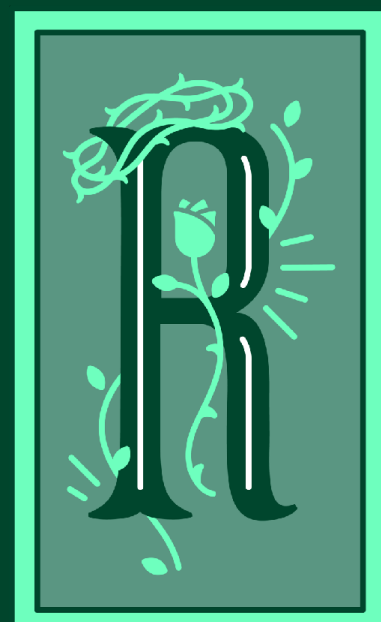
God calls us to  
submit to our  
government.



God calls us to submit to our government.

**Romans 13:1, 5 (ESV)**

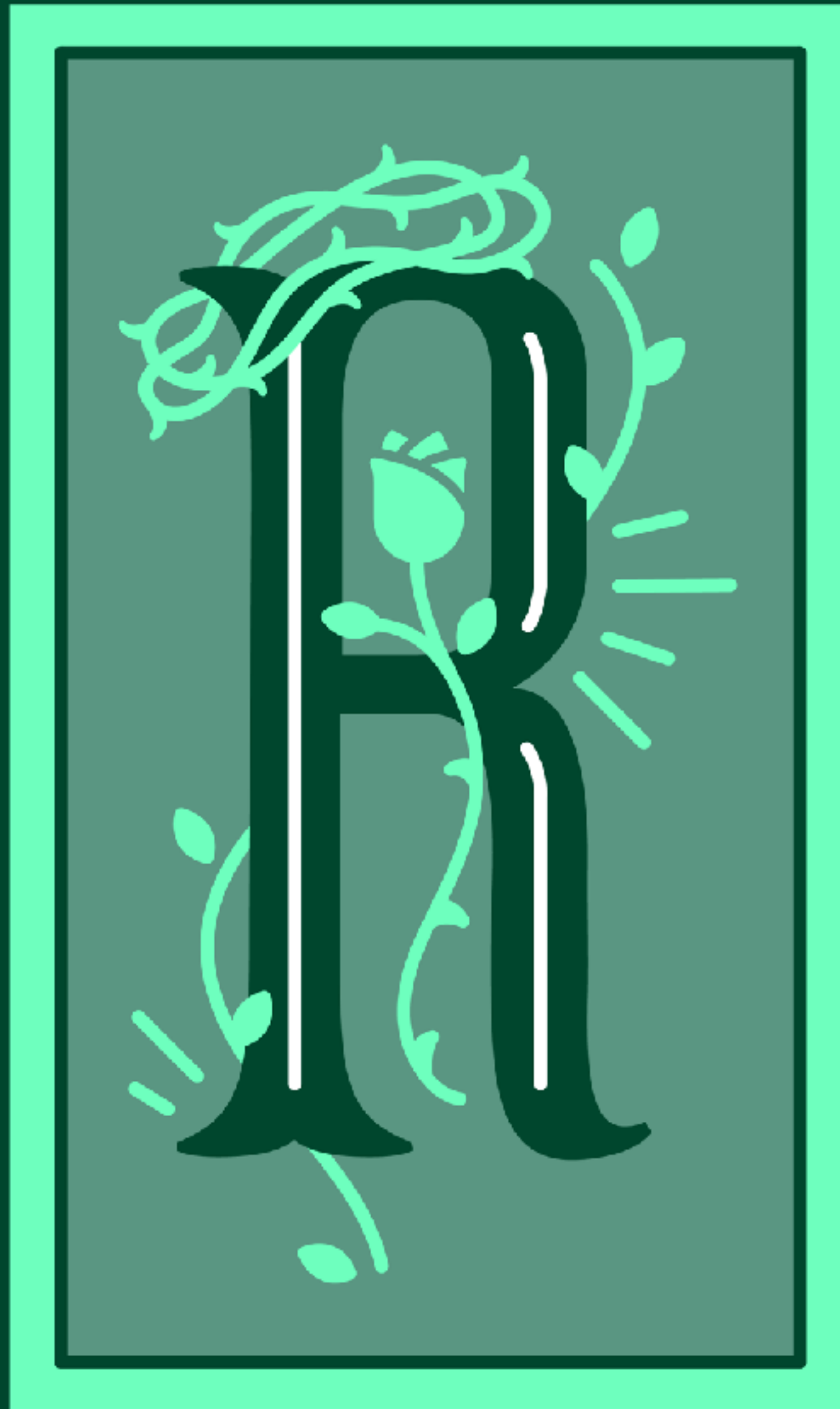
Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God... 5 Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience.



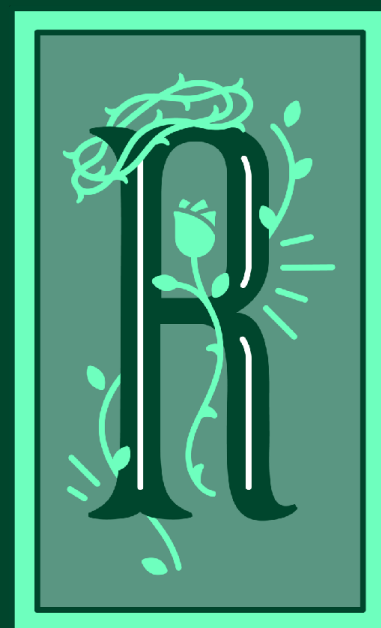
God calls us to submit to our government.

**Romans 13:6-7 (ESV)**

For because of this you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. 7 Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed.



The government  
derives its  
authority from  
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The government derives its authority from God's authority.

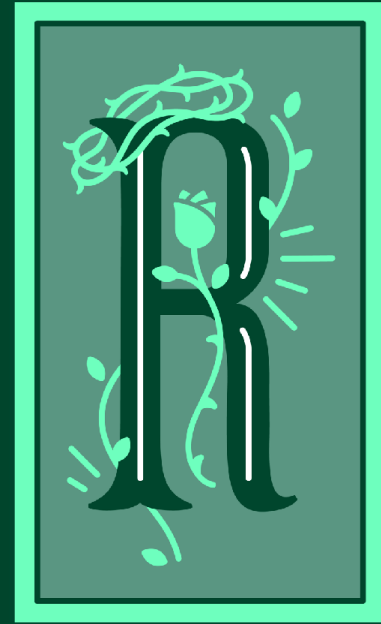
**V1.** “For there is not authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God.”

**V2.** “Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed...”

**V4.** “for (the government) is God's servant for your good... For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer.”





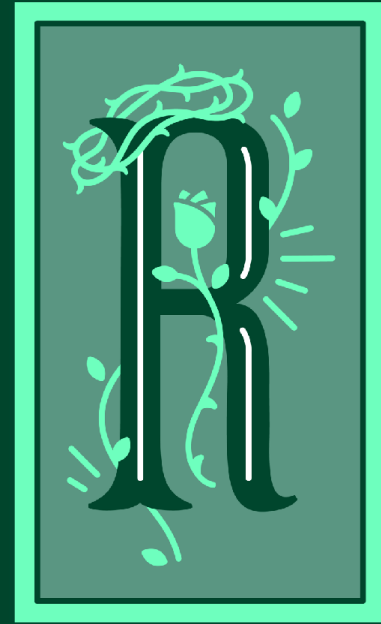


The government derives its authority from God's authority.

**Daniel 2:21a (ESV)**

He changes times and seasons;

he removes kings and sets up kings;



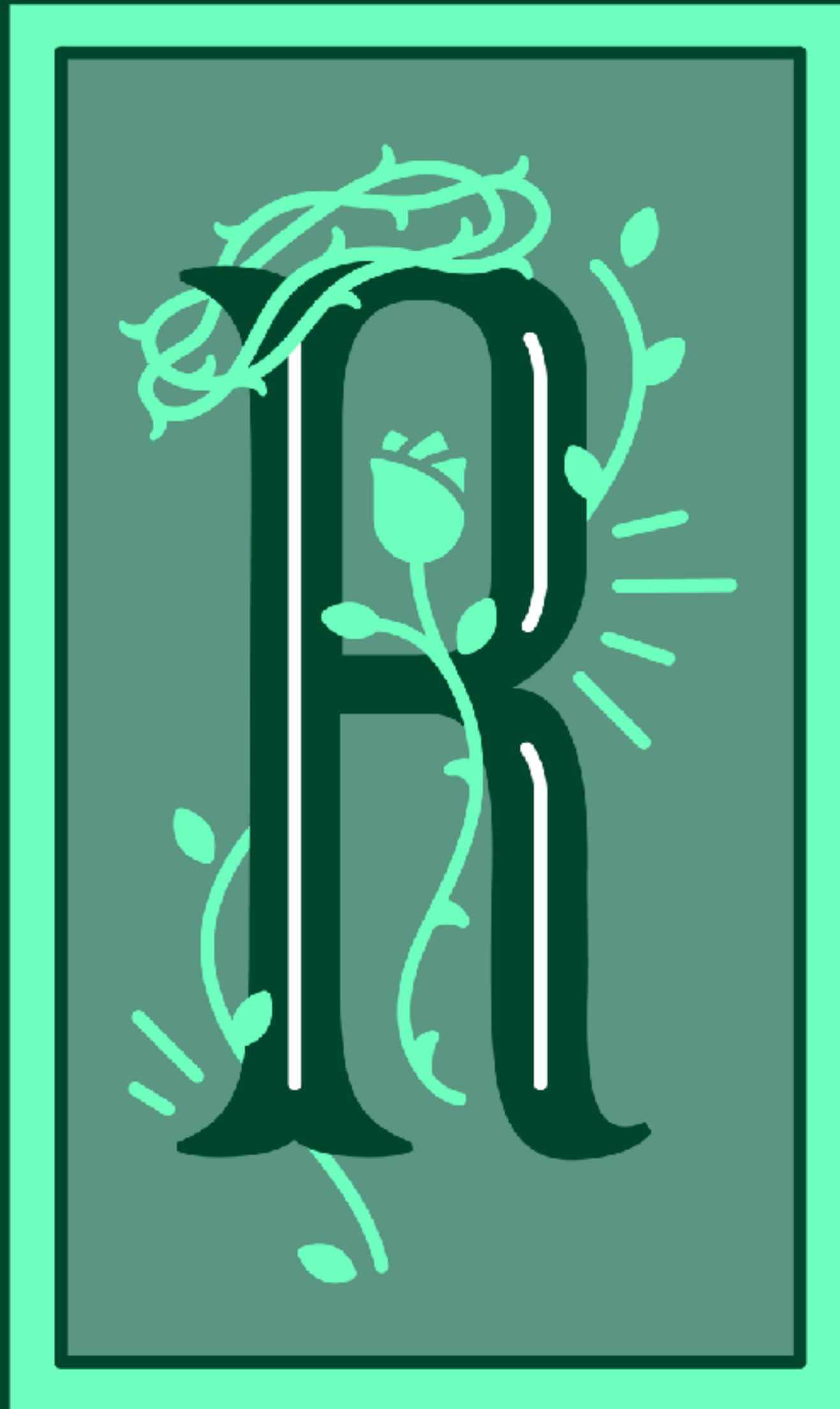
The government derives its authority from God's authority.

**Daniel 2:21a (ESV)**

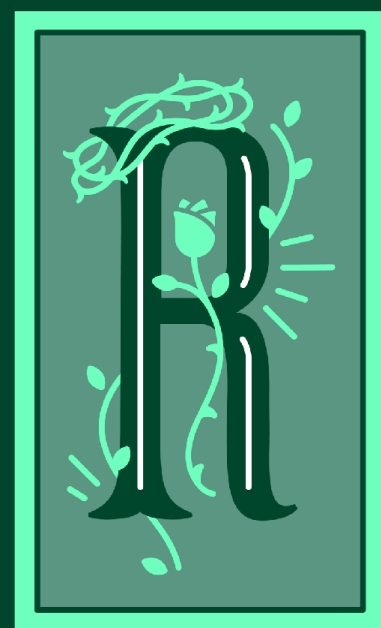
He changes times and seasons;  
he removes kings and sets up kings;

**Proverbs 21:1 (ESV)**

The king's heart is a stream of water in the hand of the Lord;  
he turns it wherever he will.



Our total  
allegiance must  
belong to God  
and his kingdom.



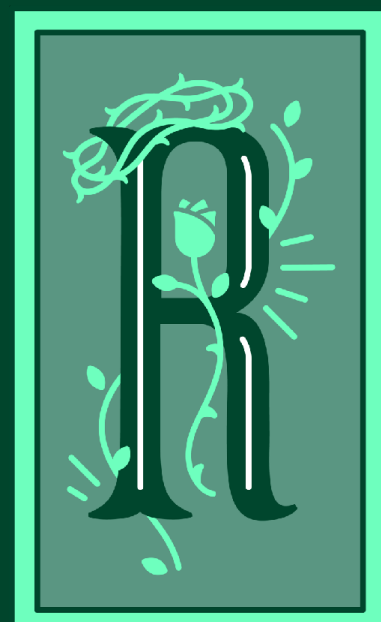
Our total allegiance must belong to God and his kingdom.

**Matthew 6:9b-10 (ESV)**

“Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come,  
your will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven.



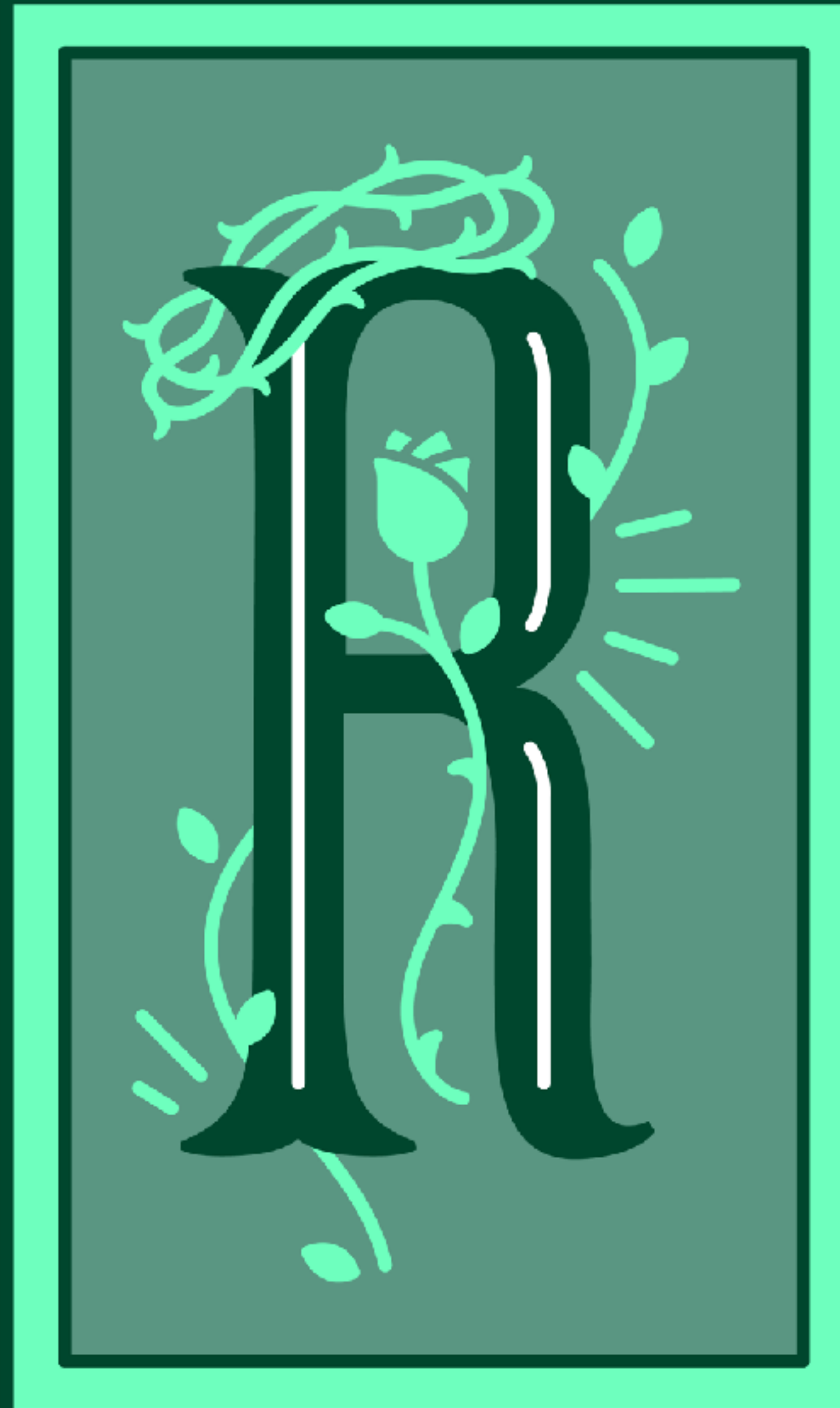
Our total allegiance must belong to God and his kingdom.

**Mark 1:14-15 (ESV)**

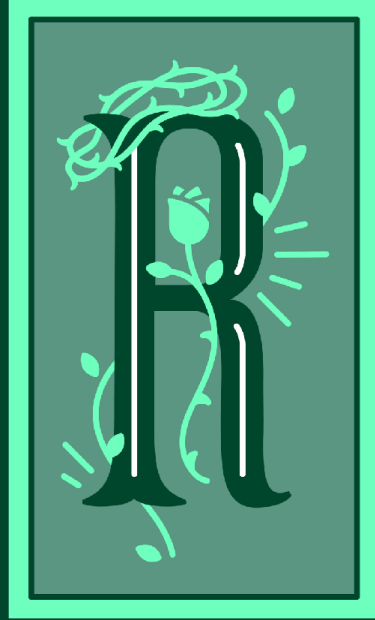
14 Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, 15 and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.”

Let him begin by treating the Patriotism or the Pacifism as a part of his religion. Then let him, under the influence of partisan spirit, come to regard it as the most important part. Then quietly and gradually nurse him on to the stage at which the religion becomes merely part of the 'cause', in which Christianity is valued chiefly because of the excellent arguments it can produce in favour of the British war-effort or of Pacifism.... Once you have made the World an end, and faith a means, you have almost won your man....

C.S. Lewis, *The Screwtape Letters* (New York: HarperCollins Publishers Inc., 1942) 34-35, Kindle.



“Jesus is Lord.”



“Jesus is Lord.”

**Philippians 3:20-21 (ESV)**

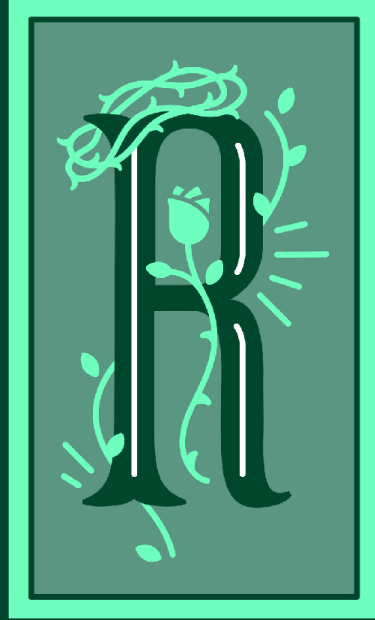
But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.



*Lord, savior, son of god, god, peace, justice, and gospel.*  
These were all familiar terms used to praise the Caesars of Rome. When Christians stole these titles and applied them to a Jew who was crucified as a revolutionary, they were bound to start a fight—especially in a patriotic city like Philippi. Roman military vets, who had sacrificed for the peace of Rome, would be particularly offended.

When Paul hails Jesus as Lord and Savior, we need to hear a faint first-century echo: *Caesar is not.*

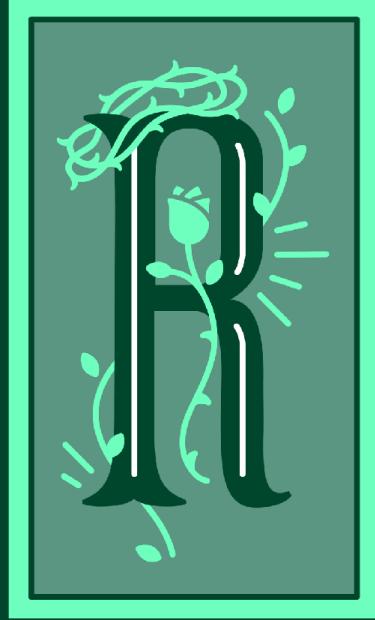
Preston Sprinkle, *Fight: A Christian Case for Non-Violence* (Colorado Springs, CO: David C. Cook, 2013) 122-123, Kindle. Emphasis his.



“Jesus is Lord.”

## **Patriotism**

Love of a people and place (not state and power).



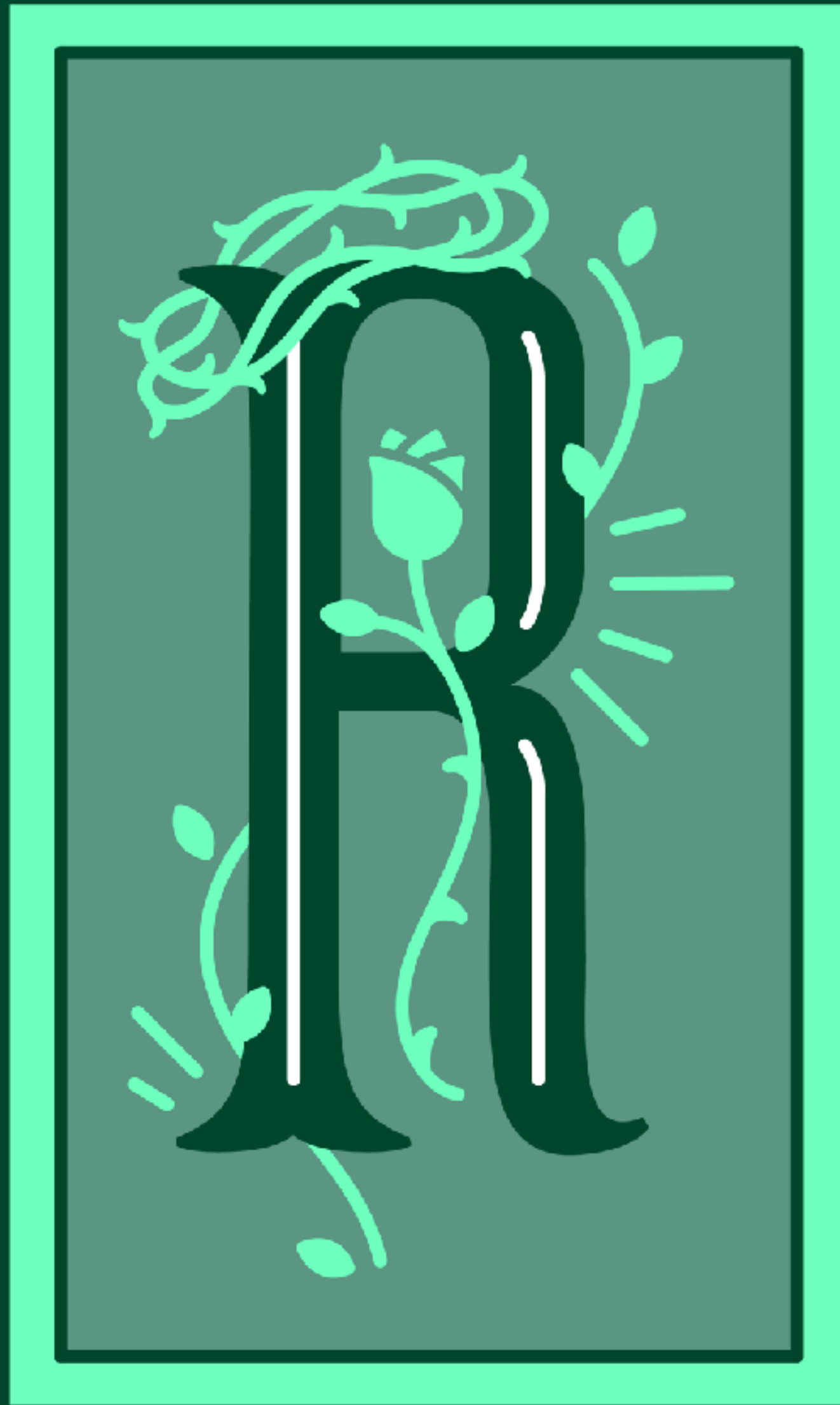
“Jesus is Lord.”

## **Patriotism**

Love of a people and place (not state and power).

## **Christian Nationalism**

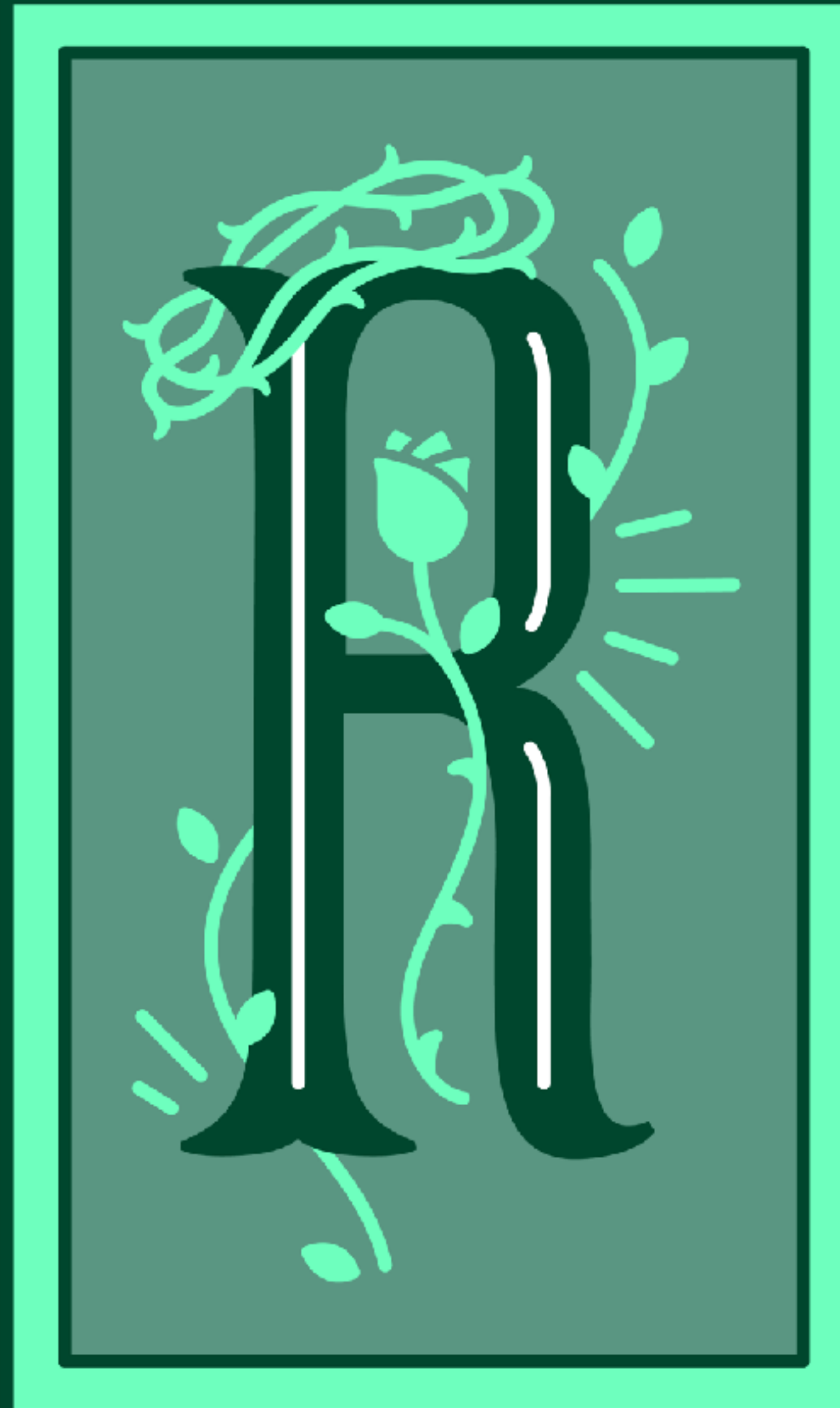
My nation is God's nation.



“Jesus is Lord.”

To the extent that we truly do acknowledge Jesus as Lord, we will engage the Caesar before us with compassion, respect, and wisdom, speaking and acting in ways that contribute to the common good. In other words, the more we pledge allegiance to Christ, the better citizens of the United States of America we'll become.

Bruce Riley Ashford, *Letters to An American Christian* (Nashville, TN: B&H Books, 2018) chap. 3, Kindle.



“Jesus is Lord.”

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