

Growing up and living in the U.S.A. I don't know much about kings. I know the definition of a king but have no experience of them. To me kings may only be the characters in fairy tales or stories of long ago and far away. Becoming a Canadian citizen I had to swear allegiance to the Queen of England. When I think of a monarch I think of the Queen of England. A noble woman to be admired, but she is hardly an example of what monarchs historically have been. A genuine monarchy is something I never experienced. As a result I believe I lose some of the power when we celebrate Jesus Christ the King

To understand what "Christ the King" means we have to understand what a monarchy is. The contrast between a democracy and monarchy is this: In a democracy power is distributed evenly among the people. In a democracy the people tell the leaders what to do. If they don't do what we say, we kick them out of office by not reelecting them. In an absolute monarchy things work the other way around. All the power belongs to the King or Queen. The monarch tells the people what to do and they obey. If they don't, the monarch has the authority to punish them for it.

Now, here is some shocking news for your democratic ears: The Kingdom of God is not a democracy. It is a monarchy. In the beginning God created a universe and said "I am King." In the Kingdom of God, God is the source of all authority. God tells us what to do, not the other way around. And the Bible tells us that God has placed his Son in charge.

As Christians we are citizens or subjects of the Kingdom of God. This means Jesus Christ is our King and the sole governing authority over our lives. But Christ is different from other rulers. In this world, power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely. So, history has shown us that monarchs are often corrupt. They oppress their subjects by laying heavy burdens on them and making unreasonable demands on them. Monarchs in this world distance themselves from their subjects and leave them powerless.

In contrast, Jesus Christ loves and cares for his subjects. Christ's power is absolute but it remains pure in its desire to nurture and love. Christ doesn't push us down, he lifts us up. He frees people from oppression and takes the heavy burdens from them. Jesus empowers his people instead of depriving them.

Unlike the rulers of this world, Christ's authority is made perfect in his servitude. Christ's power is made manifest through his weakness. Instead of maintaining a distance from his subjects, Jesus became one of us. He experienced our pain and he even died our death. Jesus Christ is uniquely qualified to be our King, because he knows us intimately and can therefore care for us infinitely.

Our King is the only begotten Son of God, God in the flesh, light from light, True God from true God, the author of salvation who was there at the beginning, the Lamb of God who was sacrificed for the sins of the world. As our King, Jesus Christ, is the One we answer to. And because we answer to the highest authority, we could be strong in the face of this world's demands, and be strong in the face of darkness because we are children of eternal light, and be strong even in the face of death because we have an eternal home in heaven with Jesus our King.