

# Feast of Christ the King

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Advent marks the beginning of the new Church Year – the four Sunday's before Christmas. That makes November the last month of the old Church Year. The last Sunday in the Pentecost Season (usually at the end of November) is the Feast of Christ the King. This was instituted in 1925 so it represents a more recent addition to the Liturgical Calendar!

This was introduced at a time when the authority of the Church and the impact of Christianity were waning in Europe. It is far worse now in the Western Church!

So... how may the assertion of Jesus' Lordship make a difference today?

## The Lordship of Jesus Christ

1 Peter 3:15b is an oft-quoted scripture – Have a reason for the hope that is within you but share with gentleness and respect. This assumes that people will ask you about your beliefs and that a gracious response is expected. However, 1 Peter 3:15a is often left out – “set apart Jesus as Lord in your heart!”

If Jesus is alive and central in our lives (at the heart!) people will notice AND ask us about our beliefs and values!

In my view, when people engage Jesus as the center of their lives – as constant companion, senior partner, trusted counselor/guide, etc. – submitted to His agenda/will, they will stand out! As Jesus is functionally Lord of one's life, He cannot be hidden. His character leaks out through us! St. Paul spoke of this as the Fruit of the Spirit - the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. (Galatians 5: 22-23) This is the person of Jesus radiating through believers!

The most compelling witness of the reality of God is a life lived dedicated to the Lord! Jesus' person and power are released through us. The Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Christ, manifests through us showing His love to others! The question is not “Am I a witness for Christ?” but “What kind of witness am I for Christ?” A comment from a recent convert in my 3rd parish still haunts me. He said, “I would have come to Faith sooner if I had seen the Lord in the lives of those in Church!” What a stark and profound statement.

## What Would Change?

So... what would it look like if Jesus was truly reigning in OUR lives? Would anything change? What would the next step be toward this alignment? May I suggest you simply ask Him and do what He says? A good way to start each day is to offer the prayer of beloved Episcopal Priest and Author Sam Shoemaker – Lord, Thank You for this new day. What are You about today? I want to be part of it!

A further way to understand God's will and purpose for us is to become familiar with God's Word. Historically, Anglicans have been “the people of the Word.” Now the Church is characterized by biblical illiteracy. To understand the Bible is to comprehend at a deeper level God's heart for us and His creation. Aligning with His purposes detailed in Scripture is another way of living into the Lordship of Christ!