

I didn't like it on the day my dentist told me he was retiring and turning the practice over to a younger dentist. My tax consultant did the same thing. So did my doctor. My grocery store has changed hands; my bank has changed ownership; even my radio station changed the music and the announcers I liked to hear. I complain about change, but I take for granted how much stability I have. Politically, for example, our government is stable; I don't have to worry that the senate of Missouri might want us to secede from the union, or that Quebec might invade Washington DC. Our leaders change, but our framework for government has remained the same for over two hundred years--a remarkable achievement for any nation in the history of the world.

For this reason, I think it's hard for Americans to appreciate the image of Christ the King. Imagine you lived in a country where the borders were not clear, where warfare was a way of life, where you didn't know from one generation to the next whether your leader would be a dictator, a king, or a democratically elected president. Imagine living under an unstable form of government. It would make my complaints about a new dentist look pretty ridiculous. But the image of Christ the King would come alive. In the midst of changing governments, the Book of Daniel predicted a stable ruler, the Son of Man, to whom would be given dominion and glory and kingship, whom all peoples, nations and languages would serve. His dominion would be an everlasting dominion that would not pass away, and his kingship one that would never be destroyed. The image of Christ the King especially appeals to people whose political life is in turmoil. If your life is in turmoil because of other changes, you might imagine him as Christ the Dentist, Christ the Banker, Christ the Grocer, Christ the DJ, or Christ the spouse, Christ the child, Christ the one who brings stability precisely to that part of your world which needs it.

Since we are the body of Christ, our mission is to bring that stability to others together. If the community fears crime, we bring honesty; if the community lacks direction, we bring vision; if the community needs food, we stock the pantry. We are the body of Christ the King, and we bring stability, experience, and comfort to a needy world.