



Pastor Enno's Weekly Message

Dear Friends,

I am going to pick on flat-earthers for a moment. I have a couple of friends who believe this and I engage with them occasionally, often when they send me something to prove their worldview. No matter what logic or proof I show, share, or tell them, and no matter what holes in their logic or proof I counter, they will continue to believe that the earth is flat (they may change their mind, but probably not because of what I am sharing with them). What to do? Their belief is mostly harmless, so I focus on other things that we have in common for they are compassionate and thoughtful people (besides this), and they probably say the same thing about me.

What do we do when a belief is harmful to others and is held by our friends and family? This could be xenophobia, racism, homophobia, or climate crisis denying. Jesus tells us to love our opponents, our enemies, and to help them when they need help, treat them respect. They will continue to believe what they believe no matter what evidence or logic we supply. I think we have to engage them and share our beliefs, our evidence, and our love if for no other reason, so we will be able to stand in our convictions, for those harmed, and not be pushed around.

Many of these things have been a part of our country and our religion for a long, long time. So much so that many who see us trying to bring justice are accused of attacking "America" itself. The good news is that in my lifetime, the scales of justice have swung pretty far towards a better society, nation, and church. The crappy news is that it is still fragile, and we have a way to go. "We Shall Overcome" is our mantra, not about people, but worldviews of scarcity, of an angry god, of separation of people, and of white Christian nationalism which ties these up in a red, white, and blue bow. May the march towards a just peace community, church, nation, and world continue.

Peace

