



Pastor Enno's Weekly Message

Dear Friends,

In our Adult study on Process Theology, we talked about a whole new vision of how God and the universe are related. In much of tradition and orthodox Christianity, God is wholly separate from the universe, and some go as far as to say God doesn't need anyone or anything, he (using the masculine pronoun on purpose) is immutable (without change or influence). That is based upon Newtonian physics that believed there were building blocks of the universe that couldn't be broken down and God created the building blocks but, again, was separate.

Process theology is based upon Einstein's Theory of Relativity and that the universe is built of energy, so there is no separation between God and the universe. This doesn't mean that God is only the universe, but that God cannot be separated from what happens in time. It's the difference between a king on a throne who watches us like insects or like a tv series who occasionally steps in and a God who is involved with anything and everything that is happening.

One of the other big differences that Alfred North Whitehead defines between these two types of God's is the old model is the coercive type who has to threaten us with eternal damnation for us to do anything good. The second is a God who is with us, taking a chance by giving us free will, inviting us to do good, but leaving the decision to us. This God wants to inspire and invite us and all creation into becoming something wonderful, beautiful, and amazing.

I am attracted to the 'God with us' (Immanuel) rather than the 'God over us' or 'God against us'. It also makes my actions and words and thoughts more important because God has entrusted me, the church, the community, the nation, and all living beings with the care of the whole. If God really only works with us and through us, not just sitting up there somewhere, then it isn't on just our shoulders, because God also carries the burden with us. That gives me hope and makes me feel connected, not just a number or a nameless person.

What do you think?

Peace

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