

RESISTING STRUCTURAL EVIL: ADULT EDUCATION March 19 & 26 Based on book, Resisting Structural Evil: Love as Ecological-Economic Vocation, by Cynthia D. Moe-Lobeda (Fortress Press, 2013).

Quotes for study:

“The chains that bind us into systemic exploitation of others and of the Earth are intricate and cleverly hidden. These chains, however, can be broken and transformed. The world is full of people doing just that. We examine these chains as “structural evil”, forces that bind [or prevent] our power to live in ways that “love neighbor as self” and to protect Earth’s well-being. These forces include intricate webs of interrelated power arrangements, ideologies, values, practices, policies, and ways of perceiving reality that span generations and have unintended snowballing consequences.” P,2

...”By structural evil I do not refer to metaphysical forces beyond human agency. To the contrary, while structural evil may be beyond the power of individuals to counter, it is composed of power arrangements and other factors that are humanly constructed and therefore may be dismantled by other human decisions and collective actions. P. 3

“Neighbor-love ... is contextual. Central to context is who we believe we are ...What love means depends on who we are:... we as humans, and we as the world’s high-consuming beneficiaries of empire. p. 198.

“Creating sustainable Earth-human relationships marked by social justice will require a tectonic shift in moral consciousness, a radically reoriented understanding of human being and purpose. The concept of our being masters of Earth has proven disastrous.” P. 198

An Ethic of Love for Earth as relational beings in God’s kin-dom includes

- * ability to see ourselves as earth-creatures, made of same elements as earth;
- * conscious relationship with other beings;
- * recognizing that we must find ways to share the benefits of Earth with others;
- * seeing our salvation as intimately connected with Earth’s protection and wholeness;
- * recognizing our participation in systemic evil that is generally accepted, or not yet visible;
- * abiding hope that our Creating God loves us and the community of life on Earth;
- * partnership with others committed to creating more just and sustainable ways of being human on Earth. (Based on Lobeda p. 199)