

Flying

The 3 most impactful things we can do as individuals in the fight against the Climate Emergency are i) eat less meat ii) fly less iii) use green renewable energy for our homes. Other than that, inter-governmental policy and corporate decision making needs to happen. For these three weeks, we will consider each one and the associated mindset as the helpful 'Eco Tip'.

Air flight produces the equivalent Co2 per passenger per mile as 3-4 passenger travelling by car. A return journey to New York produces the equivalent of 1.2 tonnes of CO2 per passenger. We all love holidays and can justify air flight for our unique set of circumstances. I wonder if the old fashioned concepts of temperance are useful here. Just because we can, should we? The consequences of climate emergency adversely affects those least contributing to global warming, the poorest communities in the Southern hemisphere, Pacific Islands. Perhaps the kinds of places one may wish to visit. Can we temper our desires? Can we fly only we really have to not because it is cheap or exotic? Who pays the price for our pleasure? Of course, with most of our choices, we have to live with a level of hypocrisy and compromise. Thankfully as Christians, we are not to judge and we have a God who forgives. Though such characteristics of our faith, require us to be honest before God and honest with ourselves. Like, sin, we will fail in our quest for climate justice. However, the object is not to avoid failure perceived hypocrisy, rather, it is to at least try. That starts with the question-do I need to do this? Can I wait, or ration my choice? What are the consequences on others if I do? What alternatives may be available?