

I don't pretend to be a Christian. But, I have a question for my friends who give themselves that designation. Does one have to be a follower of the teachings of Jesus to be a Christian? I always assumed that that belief was a part of the package—that Christians must at least attempt to be welcoming to all people. Apparently, I was mistaken. Otherwise, why would there be the vitriol and hate coming from the evangelical Christian world regarding the fact that a day to acknowledge trans people happened to fall on the same day as Easter Sunday? Easter, as we all know, varies widely in its date from year to year, as it is “the first Sunday after the first full moon after the Spring Equinox.” Apparently, this is to coincide with Passover, supposedly the period when Jesus was killed. So, Easter could conceivably, in another year, fall on the same day as: World Water Day; National Spinach Day; Weed Appreciation Day; Buddha's Birthday and Day of Silence; Garlic Day; Slavery Victims Day; or National Library Workers Day, And there is also a big, widely celebrated day that should be central to all of our actions, regardless of our beliefs. April 22nd is Earth Day. Easter will fall on this date in 2057. Will those who might commemorate both events be vilified by some Christians? Will someone who might plant a tree in honor of Earth Day be called everything from “bound for hell” to “worthless?” We were saddened to see that those who call themselves Christians, including some who, as pastors, are leaders of their flocks, have strayed so far from the teachings of their Savior so that they heaped harsh, opinionated invective on their fellow human beings. I have not read every word in the Christian bible, but is there not something about “Judge not lest ye be judged?”

I do not believe that one must be religious to treat people right. The Golden Rule of the Bible is present in other religions, as well, And, it is present in the beliefs of those of us who do not belong to any recognized religion. It is, I believe, basically “reciprocity.” In its best form, it tells us to treat others as we wish to be treated. And, I don't think any of us “straight” folks would like to be vilified in the way many LGBTQ+ individuals experience. Why not Trans Day on Easter? How has that detracted from the Christians' holy day?