How can we explain

how well-educated people can be so irrational?

We all know people who are Fox News fanatics. They treat Fox News just like Christians treat the Bible - which is not that suprising when you realize that, for the most part, they are the same people. They have been trained from an early age to accept authority without question. That is why religion can tell them the most bizarre fantasies (like the sun freezing in the sky for a day) and they will believe it. That is why Fox News can tell them lie after provable lie, and hide facts from them ... and they will still believe them. I have tried to analyze this sad situation to the best of my ability and have come to the following conclusions:

1) Irrational people *start* with the answer.

Their thinking process works completely backwards.

By starting with the answer, they dismiss contradictory evidence, no matter how strong; and accept supporting evidence, no matter how weak.

Starting with the answer is the worst possible way to think.

2) By starting with the answer they have selected a "team." Americans have been indoctrinated since childhood on the importance of team loyalty.

Fans don't usually root for the best team ... but their team.

In the case of politics, that translates to:

my party right or ~~wrong~~.

Scratch that ... their party is never wrong.

They apply that same type of thinking to their religion.

3) Ego. They claim to honor truth, but in reality truth means nothing to them.

It pales in importance to being right.

That is why they are incapable of admitting they are wrong.

Their egos will not allow them to admit defeat.

To them it's all a game, and the cardinal rule is:

never admit you are wrong.

The solution to changing irrational people into reasonable, thinking individuals is elusive. Different strategies work on different people, and to differing degrees. Sadly, most attempts fail because overcoming their egos, and their determination not to be "beaten," is an almost impossible task.

Yet, surrender is not an option. Too much is at stake. No matter how long it takes, the world must overcome the insanity that has gripped it for thousands of years, or face inevitable extinction.