

## Life Week 2022 Devotion – Day 6

God Chose YOU for LIFE in Christ

Loving without Limits

Love from the beginning of humanity's fall in the Garden of Eden disfigured and corrupted every part of creation. In the midst of that trauma, a Triune God reached out beyond the offense. His love went after the crown of His creation. He went after mankind, and He went after you. Our human nature judges ourselves and others to be worthy or unworthy of love. Our value can easily be measured by how we feel or what we are in relationship to others. Success and failure both public and private can rule the heart in such a way that it can grow cold. Lack of forgiveness, whether it be for those who have sinned against us or the sins we have committed toward others, oppresses the freedom we long for in relationships.

Each of us is a gendered "gift" that God designed to build up others, especially members of the opposite gender. Like all persons, we are ordained male or female at birth but must still become who we are. In our fallen world, we often see pain-filled examples of one's gender goodness obscured, frustrated, starved, or robbed.

Our enemy slams the gift that we are as male and female. He seeks always to deface that very essence through which we image God. Our gendered bodies are the hinge of Christian doctrine in that they reveal the God who dwells in bodily form (Colossians 2:9). Gratefully, we can also reveal Jesus the Redeemer as we become reconciled through the mercy bestowed on us in Baptism. In that merciful exchange, love provides a path to wholeness. His love knows no bounds and is able to do immeasurably more than we could think or imagine (Ephesians 3:20). God loves His children so much, He will not leave them where He found them.