

Just as...I Am as Male or Female Devotion

Chocolate or vanilla?
Salty or sweet?
Summer or winter?

If you've ever played a game of "Would You Rather?" you understand the rules: Choose one option or the other and explain your choice. Most players, even the competitive ones, will admit there's no right or wrong answer, only preferences.

And personal preferences are good. They contribute to the long list of qualities that make each of us unique and irreplaceable, each of us a one-of-a-kind gift to the world.

God is the best gift giver, and His gifts are always life-affirming. Even as He was preparing us to be gifts to the world, He was also designing gifts for us. In our first few weeks of life, God gifted us both a heart that beats and lungs that breathe to sustain our life. He crafted an intestinal tract for digestion and nerves for communication. And He formed our eyes and ears, nose and mouth for our good and His glory.

Yet, some of God's gifts date back even further; they were given the moment we came to be, like our DNA, blood type, and sexuality.

Despite modern misgivings, even science affirms that sex is established the moment egg and sperm unite; XY or XX, our DNA clearly declares the gift, male or female, God intended to give.

Giving the gift of sexuality from the get-go is nothing new for God. He established this pattern at the very beginning:

"So, God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them" (Genesis 1:27).

No matter our preference, God's gift of sexuality cannot be undone. It was woven into the cells that gave us life. Our sexuality is a gift on which God continues to build, both for our good and for the benefit of others.

Thankfully, God's good building endures despite our brokenness. Marred by sin and in need of healing, God provides: **"Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?"** (Isaiah 43:18- 19).

In our Baptism, Christ's perfect genetic code was imprinted on us; our whole being was redeemed and made new in Him. Because of Christ, God continues, even now, to affirm the gifts He's given.

God is at work through His Word and Sacraments to bring healing to the brokenness of gender confusion and same-sex attraction. He is at work to bring peace to the gender dysphoric and restoration to those who have been harmed by the misuse and abuse of gender. And He is at work to bring hope to those who suffer.

May we trust and find comfort in Him.

Pray: Lord, heal our brokenness and help us to receive as gift the sexuality You designed for each of us. Work in and through us, both for our good and for the good of our neighbor. In Jesus' name, Amen.