



Cherish All Children

Pray + Educate + Connect + Act

Wednesday Prayer

Eighth Sunday of Pentecost

Beloved, let us love one another.

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. 1 John 4: 7-8, 11

“Beloved, child of God.”

One of my pastor friends shared on facebook that she addressed each person this way as they came up for communion this past Sunday. And that she found it very moving to address each person in the way that God see’s us. Now, that’s a great setting to go around saying “Beloved, child of God” to people. But what about for us? It might not fly in the office or to your kid at home or to a vulnerable youth to just blurt out, “Hey, beloved, child of God...” This passage in 1 John goes on to say that God abides in us, and his love has been perfected among us, that we may have boldness and no fear in love.

So, how can we show our sisters and brothers that they are a beloved child of God? Recently I’ve heard the phrase “Find your lane” meaning to find the way in which you can work for what is right or just. I’ve stepped into the lane of leading Cherish All Children into the future of our prevention work to keep children and youth safe from sexual exploitation. You may be a teacher, parent, grandparent, youth leader, coach, church volunteer, salesperson, custodian – what is your lane? How can you safely, boldly, reach out to a youth to let them know they are a beloved child of God? Creating healthy relationships will go a long way in perfecting the love of God. Speaking out for what is right and just, participating in a march, supporting youth who are experiencing homelessness or other difficult situations, praying for vulnerable youth – whatever you find your lane to be, do it to show a sister or brother they are a beloved child of God.

God of perfect love, we know you abide in us, and we need to be reminded. Help us to use this reminder to show your love to youth who need us so badly in this difficult world. Stir in us the willingness to find our lane and work for what is right and just. Amen.

Today's Wednesday Prayer was written by Joy McElroy, Cherish All Children Executive Director.

Please also pray for all children and youth who are experiencing any form of abuse or exploitation, that they find safety and healing.