

I Am the Clay

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Isaiah 64:8 But now, O LORD, thou *art* our father; we *are* the clay, and thou our potter; and we all *are* the work of thy hand.

Jeremiah 18:1-6 The word which came to Jeremiah from the LORD, saying, Arise, and go down to the potter's house, and there I will cause thee to hear my words. Then I went down to the potter's house, and, behold, he wrought a work on the wheels. And the vessel that he made of clay was marred in the hand of the potter: so he made it again another vessel, as seemed good to the potter to make *it*. Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying, O house of Israel, cannot I do with you as this potter? saith the LORD. Behold, as the clay *is* in the potter's hand, so *are* ye in mine hand, O house of Israel.

- I. Am I really the clay?
 - A. Am I really yielded to God spirit, soul, and body?
 - B. Or am I still convinced that I am in charge and that if I am ever to become anything useful to God it is up to me?
 - C. Is my heart really soft and pliable, yielding to the soft touch of the Master's hand?
 - D. Or is my heart so hard that it cannot be worked by the slow soft working of God's hand, but only by the impact of a hammer that shatters to pieces?
 - E. Can I rest in the fact that "it doth not yet appear what we shall be...?"
 - F. Or am I determined to be what I have in mind for myself?

- II. I am the clay – and clay has impurities in it.
 - A. Rocks and air bubbles, or dried clumps of stuff cause the clay to be marred in the potter's hand.
 - B. The clay must be sifted thoroughly before it can be used and even then it can have impurities that will mar the vessel while it is on the wheel.
 - C. Usually, it is only a small speck, but it cause the whole thing to be marred, and requires the wheel to stop for a while and a gapping wound to be opened in the vessel to remove it.
 - D. These impurities will never be found in the clay unless it is yielded to the potter's hand.
 - E. When found, they must be purged, which stops the work of the potter for a time and sometimes causes him to have to start all over.

- III. The potter cannot work with clay that is lacking in moisture.
 - A. If the clay is too dry it becomes hard and unplayable.
 - B. The Word of God is referred to or likened to water.
 - C. If we do not contain enough of the Word of God we will not be workable by the Potter.
 - D. Those who neglect reading and studying the Word of God become hard in their hearts and minds and unyielding to the working of God in their life.
 - E. As water softens the hard ground, so the Word of God softens the hard heart and stubborn mind and will.
 - F. Without exception, those who are yielded to God on the potter's wheel are those who are filled with the Word of God, also.

Psalm 130:5 I wait for the LORD, my soul doth wait, and in his word do I hope.

- IV. The potter cannot make a vessel out of clay that is not yielded.
- A. It is a slow, painful process even if the clay is totally yielded.
 - B. It takes much patience on the part of the Potter.
 - C. But it is impossible if the clay is resisting the Potter's hand.
 - D. It is not natural, logical, or sensible for the clay to resist.

Romans 9:20-21 Nay but, O man, who art thou that repliest against God? Shall the thing formed say to him that formed *it*, Why hast thou made me thus? Hath not the potter power over the clay, of the same lump to make one vessel unto honour, and another unto dishonour?

- E. Clay does not resist our hand, but men do resist the hand of God.

Isaiah 29:16 Surely your turning of things upside down shall be esteemed as the potter's clay: for shall the work say of him that made it, He made me not? or shall the thing framed say of him that framed it, He had no understanding?

Isaiah 10:15 Shall the axe boast itself against him that heweth therewith? or shall the saw magnify itself against him that shaketh it? as if the rod should shake *itself* against them that lift it up, or as if the staff should lift up *itself*, as if it were no wood.

- 1. This is the state of a person who is unsaved and not yielded to God.
- 2. This is not the state of a person who has been broken and made new.

Isaiah 45:9 Woe unto him that striveth with his Maker! *Let* the potsherd *strive* with the potsherds of the earth. Shall the clay say to him that fashioneth it, What makest thou? or thy work, He hath no hands?

- F. God formed a vessel of clay and made it in his own image and likeness.

Genesis 2:7 And the LORD God formed man *of* the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.

- G. But the vessel was marred in the hands of the Potter.
 - 1. Impurities were found – sin entered in.
 - 2. Dryness made the clay too hard to work with anymore – ignorance and lack of the Word of God in them that are lost.

- H. So He has to break it and make it over again.

Isaiah 30:14 And he shall break it as the breaking of the potters' vessel that is broken in pieces; he shall not spare: so that there shall not be found in the bursting of it a sherd to take fire from the hearth, or to take water *withal* out of the pit.

- 1. When the vessel is marred (ruined, corrupted) the Potter must break it down and grind it to powder before it can be used again.
- 2. This is what must happen when a person is born again into God's family.

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

- V. Can you honestly say today that "I am the clay"?
- A. Are you gladly allowing God to take away the parts of you that are not conformed to the image He is making of you?
 - B. Do you thank Him for revealing the impurities in your heart and mind?

- C. Do you rest in the fact that He is making you into a vessel for his own particular use and trust Him completely without murmuring and doubting?

James 4:7 Submit yourselves therefore to God ...

1 Peter 5:6-7 Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.

Isaiah 45:9 Woe unto him that striveth with his Maker! ...