

# The Potter and the Clay

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### Romans 9

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Sermon Sketch: Paul encourages believers with the reminder that God is the Potter and we are the Clay. The Lord can do with us whatever He desires and we do well to remember that He does all things well...

- 1) How have you chosen to be yoked to Jesus in the past week? How has that kept your heart from falling into the sin of pride? (Isaiah 47 – The Fall of Babylon...)
- 2) How often have you had a chance to work with clay? Art class in school? Maybe as a regular artistic pursuit? Have you molded it by hand or thrown it on a wheel?
- 3) Common practice for a potter is to knead/pound clay to prep it for shaping (thereby working out imperfections and air pockets which might cause cracking when later fired in the kiln). In John 16:33 Jesus recognizes that we will have tribulation in life. The Greek word used is *thlipsis* which includes the idea of pressure that hems one in. How has God used hard times in your life to mold and shape you?
- 4) Have you ever questioned how God has fashioned you? Ever been frustrated with how you are “wired”? How does Romans 9:21 speak to how you feel about yourself?
- 5) When you took the Gift Assessment, did you at all wish you were differently gifted by God? How does

Jeremiah 18 encourage you to be at peace with how God has enabled you?

- 6) The poem, “The Touch of the Master’s Hand” by Myra Brooks Welch is a powerful word picture of what can happen when we fully surrender to the will of Jesus. What can you do in the week ahead to more fully yield to what Christ wants to do in your life?
- 7) The surrendered life was so powerful exemplified by our Savior (John 5:19). Where is God presently working in your life and how can you more fully co-labor with Him?



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