

## THE POTTER AND THE CLAY

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The Bible helps us to understand our relationship to the God of heaven. If we fail to understand our place in creation, we will be led into error by pride and self-seeking glory. The Holy Spirit used the illustration of a potter and the clay to identify the proper roles of God and man. The truths of our existence will be better understood if we study this carefully.

#### BODIES OF CLAY

Clay is a type of earthen matter. It is an apt description of the human body which was created from the “dust of the ground” (Genesis 2:7). Job said, “Remember, I pray, that You have made me like clay. And will You turn me into dust again?” (Job 10:9). Paul described the bodies of the apostles who revealed the gospel as “earthen vessels” (2 Corinthians 4:7). It is a humbling thought for man to realize that his physical body is nothing more than the elements of this earth. From dust we came and to dust we shall return (Genesis 3:19).



#### IGNORING THE POTTER

As people with bodies of clay, we must be careful to highly esteem the Potter who formed us from the dust of the ground. Isaiah warned, “Woe to those who seek deep to hide their counsel far from the Lord, and their works are in the dark; they say, ‘Who sees us?’ and, ‘Who knows us?’ Surely you have things turned around! Shall the potter be esteemed as the clay; for shall the thing made say of him who made it, ‘He did not make me’? Or shall the thing formed say of him who formed it, ‘He has no understanding’?” (Isaiah 29:15-16). We must not question the existence or oversight of the divine Potter. Many today “have things turned around” when they deny God and place man upon the throne of his own authority. The “clay” ignores the Potter with foolish claims of evolution and human philosophy. Such counsel is far from God. “Woe to him who strives with his Maker! Let the potsherd strive with the potsherd of the earth. Shall the clay say to him who forms it, ‘What are you making?’ Or shall your handiwork say, ‘He has no hands’?” (Isaiah 45:9).

#### ESTEEMING THE POTTER

People today who understand the truth of human existence acknowledge the Creator. They acknowledge the fact that we owe God our very existence: “But now, O Lord, You are our Father; we are the clay, and You our potter; and all we are the work of Your hand” (Isaiah 64:8). I believe that we should understand this in both the physical and spiritual sense. God is the potter that forms our physical bodies and our spirits (Ecclesiastes 12:7; Hebrews 12:9). We must submit to the will of God as the clay submits to the power of the potter. Israel of old was told, “Look, as the clay is in the potter’s hand, so are you in My hand, O house of Israel!” (Jeremiah 18:6). Israel was later told by the apostle Paul, “Does not the potter have power over the clay, from the same lump to make one vessel for honor and another for dishonor?” (Romans 9:21).

God, as the potter, determines the shape of the righteous vessel. If we, as clay, will submit to that shape (pattern) of righteousness, we will be vessels for honor. Clay that does not submit to God’s pattern will be thrown out in dishonor. Acknowledge the sovereign power of God and His authority and submit to His workmanship as clay in the potter’s hands!

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