

CLAY

I Don't Want to Move

July 29, 2018

Introduction: Being formed into the image of Christ is a journey. None of us look like Jesus overnight – as most of us have come to realize. Our walk with God has its ups and downs. And, as we travel these peaks and valleys, we are either shaped by the Word of God and His Son, Jesus Christ, or by this world. So, is it possible to be transformed into the image of Christ in this lifetime? Can God take this lump of clay and mold it into a form that is pleasing in his sight? I believe he can!

Scripture Reading: Jeremiah 18:2-6

²² ...**put off your old self**, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, ²³ and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, ²⁴ and to **put on the new self, created after the likeness of God** in true righteousness and holiness (Ephesians 4:22–24).

I. We are a Lump of Clay.

*But now, O Lord, you are our Father; **we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand** (Isaiah 64:8).*

*then **the LORD God formed the man of dust** from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature (Genesis 2:7).*

² “Arise, and go down to the potter’s house, and there I will let you hear my words.” ³ So I went down to the potter’s house, and there he was working at his wheel. ⁴ And the vessel he was making of clay was spoiled in the potter’s hand, and he reworked it into another vessel, as it seemed good to the potter to do. ⁵ Then the word of the Lord came to me: ⁶ “O house of Israel, **can I not do with you as this potter has done?** declares the Lord. Behold, **like the clay in the potter’s hand, so are you in my hand**, O house of Israel” (Jeremiah 18:2–6).

II. We are Being Molded by Our Father.

⁵ And have you forgotten the **exhortation that addresses you as sons?** “My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor be weary when reproved by him. ⁶ For the Lord **disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives.**” ⁷ It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline? ⁸ If you are left without discipline, **in which all have participated**, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. ⁹ Besides this, we have had earthly fathers who disciplined us and we respected them. Shall we not much more **be subject to the Father of spirits and live?** (Hebrews 12:5–9).

III. We have a Treasure in Vessels of Clay.

⁷ But **we have this treasure in jars of clay**, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us. ⁸ We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; ⁹ persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; ¹⁰ always **carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies.** ¹¹ For we who live are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that **the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh** (2 Corinthians 4:7–11).

IV. We are Being Shaped for Another Life

And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you **will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ** (Philippians 1:6).

⁶ "...bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the end of the earth, ⁷ everyone who is called by my name, **whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made**" (Isaiah 43:6–7).

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- I. We are a Lump of _____.
(Isaiah 64:8) (Genesis 2:7) (Jeremiah 18:2–6)

- II. We are Being _____ by Our _____.
(Hebrews 12:5–9)

- III. We have a _____ in Vessels of _____.
(2 Corinthians 4:7–11)

- IV. We are Being _____ for _____ Life
(Philippians 1:6) (Isaiah 43:6–7)