

Templates of Truth with Rick Smith
Audio Script – March 19, 2009

Did you ever wish you were someone else? Do you struggle with how you look or your lot in life? We all have these fleeting thoughts from time to time, but in today's Templates of Truth, Isaiah challenges us with a truth that may reveal our resentment against God, our Creator.

God poses the question through Isaiah, *Shall the potter be considered as equal with the clay, that what is made should say to its maker, 'He did not make me;' or what is formed say to him who formed it, 'He has no understanding?'* (Isaiah 29:16). The question is raised in the context of challenging *those who deeply hide their plans from the Lord* (29:15). These are people who move forward with their life, working to achieve the goals they have set for themselves, and undertaking to do things for which they have never stopped to consider what God's will may be in the matter. In doing so, they have assumed the role of potter. They have determined their own size, shape and use. Isaiah contends that such an approach to life is as ludicrous as the clay making itself on equal terms with the potter and insisting that it can shape itself.

We realize how absurd that is! Yet, how often do we go through the routines of life making important decisions about family, career, finances, friends, and pursue opportunities & objectives without ever seriously praying and seeking to know God's leadership and direction concerning those matters? The attitude we display suggests that God's will is only important to know in the bigger, more significant decisions in life, but we are well-equipped to handle all the little day-to-day things that really don't matter to God anyway. When that is the way we think and act, we are as guilty as those in Isaiah's day who said, *"Who sees us?" or "Who knows us?"* (29:15). The failure is in not understanding that God sees, God knows, and He is very interested in even the minute things in our life that we think we are otherwise big enough to handle on our own.

Isaiah visits this same issue again later in his prophecy: *Woe to the one who quarrels with his Maker...will the clay say to the potter, "What are you doing?" or the thing you are making say, "He has no hands?"* (45:9). We are examples of the prophet's point when we look in the mirror and detest some unchangeable feature about the way we look, the sound of our voice, the nature of our personality, how tall or how short we are. When we understand that God is our Creator, it can become easy to blame God and resent Him for making us in ways that we don't like or don't want to accept. The person who comes to believe that their gender was a mistake and should be changed is basically saying, "God, You made a mistake. You were wrong. You gave me the wrong body." God is never wrong nor can He ever make a mistake! We should consider what our thoughts and activities are saying about God's sovereign design for us when we choose certain measures of cosmetic alteration and surgical enhancement. We can become guilty of assuming the role of potter.

Paul affirms this teaching in his letter to the church at Rome: *Who are you, O man, who answers back to God? The thing molded will not say to the molder, "Why did you make me like this?" will it? Or does not the potter have a right over the clay to make from the same lump one vessel for honorable use, and another for common use?* (Romans 9:20-21). Here, Paul applies the principle in relation to God's will, plan and purpose for how He uses certain ones in ministry

service. God calls some to serve in lesser ministry roles & capacities than others. This does not make any one believer less important than another. Every ministry role is important and significant to God. Paul's point is that God chooses, in His sovereign rule and will over our lives, to call some into special roles of ministry service, such as pastor, evangelist, missionary, writer, or recording artist. When we envy and become jealous over someone God calls into these special activities; or when we oppose & challenge those whom God has called into these special roles, we are quarreling with our Maker. We are questioning God's wisdom and answering back to God. God will not be mocked! He will deal with us for assuming such arrogance and pride.

Who are you and what are you today? Are you willing to accept what and who God created you to be? Are you able to be happy and satisfied with how God determined your personhood and role in His kingdom? You are the clay – allow God to be the Potter. He will shape your life far better than you could ever do or ever imagine!

That's today's Templates of Truth. This is your Bible teacher, Rick Smith, reminding you to attend church this Sunday for Bible study and worship, pray for one another, and always strive to abide. Until next time, have a blessed and glorious day in Christ Jesus.

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