

CLAY CULTURE

GOD'S SHAPING OF THE CHURCH'S CULTURE

FOUNDATIONAL CONCEPTS OF CLAY CULTURE

TEXT: ROMANS 9:20-21

We as a church and us as individual believers must remain mouldable in God's hand throughout the seasons of life and history. However, that moulding can also come from other sources and hence become tangential to God's purpose. These sources can come in the form of societal expectations, cultural pressures and or selfish motivations. How do we have the right balance? I believe God shows us in His Word and the picture of this is clay. We need to have a clay culture in the church.

1. We need to be specified – *vs 20-21*

- Paul responds to the question of Israel being the people of God and the predicament they find themselves in. His argument is that they God's people still but have been following in the flesh and not after faith.

A. As the creation – *vs 20*

- As the creation, it is up to the creator to form us into His intended shape. That means, all of who we are was formed by God and is continuing to be formed by Him. We are His creation!

B. As the clay – *vs 21*

- This calls to mind the fact that God in His forming of us expects us to have pliable nature.

2. We need to be shaped

Shaping is the process in which something is moulded into a particular form. It requires adjustments, redirections through teaching, applying pressure and repeated pressing. This shaping is for our good. God often starts with chaos to make His creation complete.

A. By the potter – *vs 20*

- The potter is God. It's His design and His shaping that we ought to seek for.

- i. For His purpose

- ii. For His pleasure

- iii. For His profit

B. By the pattern – *Gal 4:19-20*

- Jesus is the pattern for our shaping.

3. We need to be surrendered– *Rom 12:1-2*

In understanding that we are the clay and He is the potter, the very response to that information is what makes it transformational.

A. In our shaping

- surrender is an acceptance that in all of that we have a God who is able to do so with gentleness and love.

B. In our season

Clay culture means that we are mouldable for God's purpose, pleasure and profit. We trust Him to shape us for our time and create in us a handiwork that is strengthened for the time at hand.