

POTS FOR THE POTTER

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I. INTRODUCTION

- A. **Isa. 64:8:** *Yet, O LORD, You are our Father. We are the clay, You are the Potter; we are all the work of Your hand.*
- B. **Rom. 9:20-23:** ²⁰*But who are you, O man, to talk back to God? Shall what is formed say to him who formed it, “**Why did You make me like this?**”* ²¹*Does not the potter have the right to make out of the same lump of clay some pottery for noble purposes and some for common use?* ²²*What if God, choosing to show His wrath and make His power known, bore with great patience the objects of His wrath—prepared for destruction?* ²³*What if He did this to make the riches of His glory known to the objects of His mercy, whom He prepared in advance for glory.*
- C. **Isa. 29:16:** *You turn things upside down, as if the potter were thought to be like the clay! Shall what is formed say to Him who formed it, “**He did not make me?**” Can the pot say of the potter, “**He knows nothing?**”*
- D. **Isa. 45:9-10:** ⁹*Woe to him who quarrels with his Maker, to him who is but a potsherd among the potsherds on the ground. Does the clay say to the potter, “**What are You making?**” Does your work say, “**He has no hands?**”* ¹⁰*Woe to him who says to his father, “What have you begotten?” or to his mother, “What have you brought to birth?”*
- E. **Two errors:**
1. “You didn’t make me!” [Evolution!]
 2. “Why did You make me like this? What are You making? God doesn’t know what He is doing” [Discontent, identity confusion, arrogance]

II. ERROR #1: GOD DIDN’T MAKE ME

- A. Evolution is the height of ignorance and arrogance
- B. **Ps. 139:13-16:** ¹³*For You created my inmost being; You knit me together in my mother's womb.* ¹⁴*I praise You because **I am fearfully and wonderfully made;** Your works are wonderful, I know that full well.* ¹⁵*My frame was not hidden from You when*

I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth, ¹⁶Your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in Your book before one of them came to be.

C. A few facts about the human body

1. **100 trillion cells** that originated from one single cell yet differentiated into a complex array of compartments, girders, factories, motors, sensors and control systems
2. The **DNA** contained in one cell, if uncoiled, connected and stretched out, would be about 7 feet long, yet so thin its details could not be seen, even under an electron microscope!
3. The amount of information coded in the DNA of just one cell would fill a library of 4,000 books!
4. The total DNA in your body would stretch 60 billion miles (distance from Earth to the Moon 500,000 times!) and contain 70 trillion gigabytes of information
5. The information contained in the DNA of your entire body in book form would fill the Grand Canyon 75 times!
6. Yet if one set of DNA (one cell) from every person who has ever lived were placed in a pile, it would weigh less than an aspirin!
7. The **heart** pumps 100,000 times per day, pumping blood through 60,000 miles of blood vessels
8. That would be 1,900 gallons per day, almost 700,000 gallons per year, or 48 million gallons by the time someone is 70 years old!
9. 2.4 million new **red blood cells** are made every second!
10. The **lungs** contain 600 million gas-exchange chambers with a total surface area the size of a volleyball court!
11. The **brain** is a 3 pound, 10 watt supercomputer that contains more than 100 quadrillion electrochemical connections!

D. **Rom. 1:19-22:** ¹⁹*Since what may be known about God is plain to them, because **God has made it plain to them.** ²⁰For since **the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—His eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being***

*understood from what has been made, so that **MEN ARE WITHOUT EXCUSE.** ²¹For although they knew God, they neither glorified Him as God nor gave thanks to Him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. ²²Although they claimed to be wise, **they became fools.***

III. ERROR #2: WHY DID GOD MAKE ME LIKE THIS?

- A. Each one is unique: God loves diversity!
 - 1. Over 7 billion people each with unique fingerprints (even twins! – Mom & Fran) – there is no one like you, so stop trying to be like somebody else!
 - 2. 170 billion galaxies each with 100 billion stars = 10^{24} (one septillion!) stars, yet He counts them and gave each a name!
 - 3. Same number (one septillion) snowflakes fall to earth each year and NO TWO ARE ALIKE!
 - 4. God made:
 - a) 400,000 species of flowering plants (26,000 orchids!)
 - b) 1 million (possibly 8 million!) insects
 - c) Birds that swim like fish and fish that fly!
 - d) A furry mammal that lays eggs & has a bill like a duck and some fish that look like miniature horses!
 - e) Brightly colored fish that live in total darkness of the ocean depths – who sees them?
- B. We are not accidents – God made each one of us exactly according to His plan
 - 1. POWERPOINT: Nick Vujicic – *Life Without Limbs*
 - 2. Preached to millions in 45 nations!
- C. Most of the people God used in the Bible had “limitations” but that didn’t “limit” God from carrying out His purpose
 - 1. Moses had a dysfunctional childhood & couldn’t speak well
 - 2. Abraham was too old & couldn’t have kids
 - 3. Peter didn’t have a college education (& had a temper!), Thomas was a doubter, Zacchaeus was too short, & Lazarus was dead!
 - 4. YET the Lord used each one in spite of those limitations!

D. God KNOWS what He is doing & He deliberately made us all different

1. Many people in the world today are unhappy with the way they are (“I’m too short/tall, fat/skinny, white/dark, etc.”); the ultimate now is people confused about and even wanting to change their sexual identity!
2. Jer. 29:11 – God knows very well!
3. Song: “We can trust our God, He knows what He’s doing...”
4. Paul compares the church to a many-membered Body (1 Cor. 12:4-20): ⁴*There are **different kinds of gifts**, but the same Spirit.* ⁵*There are **different kinds of service**, but the same Lord.* ⁶*There are **different kinds of working**, but the same God works all of them in all men... many parts... foot... hand... ear... eye... head...* ¹⁸*But in fact **God has arranged the parts** in the body, every one of them, **JUST AS HE WANTED THEM TO BE.*** ¹⁹*If they were all one part, where would the body be?* ²⁰*As it is, there are many parts, but one body.*

IV. POTS FOR THE POTTER’S USE

- A. **2 Tim. 2:20-21:** ²⁰*In a large house there are articles [“vessels” – KJV] not only of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay; some are for noble purposes and some for ignoble.* ²¹*If a man cleanses himself from the latter, he will be an **instrument** [“vessel” – KJV (same Gk. as v.21) for noble purposes, made holy, **useful to the Master** and prepared to do any good work.*
- B. **2 Cor 4:7:** *But we have this treasure in **jars of clay** [“earthen vessels” – KJV (“vessels” same Gk. again)] to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.*
- C. Praise God for the way He designed you and understand He did it with a purpose
- D. Trust God to use you in spite of your so-called “limitations” (a clay pot is weak and fragile, but the emphasis is on the “treasure” (Christ) inside!