

CLAY with a BEAUTIFUL Design

The stark white sheet of Highland High School letterhead had never been scary or disappointing to me. In fact, I actually looked forward to the surprise of report cards, anxious to see if my hard work had paid off. But this day, my report card greeted me with less-than-exciting news: I had received a B in ceramics. A B! How can I get a B in art class? I thought.

Throughout the semester, I'd tried my hardest to shape clay into figures that were pleasing to the eye. Unfortunately, many of my pieces were constructed under sheer frustration with noncooperative clay.

My disbelief in my grade led me to thinking about Jesus. Who looked at my work as beautiful, noting each design's intricate details. And though there are times we may resist His gentle, molding hands, He doesn't respond in frustration. Instead, His calm touch reminds us that His plan is always best.

by Becky Marras

You Are a Masterpiece

When God was creating the blueprint for you, He did it with painstaking detail. He went over every measurement and angle and smiled at His handi-craft, Psalm 139: 13-14 says, "For you created me in my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made."

He knew whether you were going to be shy or outgoing, a leader or a follower a redhead or a blond. You can praise Him, because every part of you was made for a purpose; every part of you crafted to glorify the Potter. Just as God saw my less-than-perfect pottery as breathtaking. He sees your every imperfection as runway-worthy. How awesome is that!

Don't Mess with the Artist

Have you ever felt like telling God, "I don't want to be molded this way?" There are times we've all been stubborn clay in the Potter's hands. Because we can't see the blueprint for our life, we aren't willing to surrender ourselves to the gentle hands of the Artist. Isaiah 45: 9 illustrates this truth:

"Does the clay say to the potter 'What are you making?' Does your work say, 'He has no hands?'" When we realize that His sovereign design is best, we can willingly place ourselves into His welcoming arms.

This summer, as the Potter shapes you into a beautiful vessel for Him, take time to encourage your sisters in Christ. Encourage them that they're created for a purpose.



Encouragement comes in different forms. You could write a friend an encouragement notes, take your younger sister out for ice cream or write the verses of psalm 139 on a pretty note card for your best friend to stick on her mirror. Make it your mission this summer to be an encouragement to all of those (including yourself!) who are striving to be pliable clay for the potter.