

Romans: Together For The Gospel

February 20, 2017 // Romans 9:19-29

Introduction

Paul makes the obvious argument that God, as the cosmic potter, can form his creation in any way he pleases. Yet, despite our sin, he desires to see us become reformed into vessels for honorable use.

Discussion Questions

- Why are we, by nature, blame-shifters when it comes to sin?
- Why is blaming God tantamount to blasphemy of the Holy Spirit?
- Discuss the formula in which Adam and Eve confessed their sin (Because of X, I sinned.) Why is this an empty confession? What is the solution to empty confessions?
- Read Rom 9:20-21. How do you understand what Paul is saying? How would Paul's original audience have understood what Paul is saying?
- In Isaiah 29, God warns Jerusalem (Ariel) that he would soon destroy her because of her sin. As the master potter, he reserved the right to do so. However, he gave them hope for a future with the "Holy One of Israel" (Isa 29:18-19). How does this help us understand Paul's point in Romans 9?
- In Jeremiah 18, God proves that he can form and reform nations (Gentiles) into anything he desires. How is this a sobering warning to the Jews of Jeremiah's day? Why should this give the Gentiles hope?
- Discuss the illustration of *kintsugi* as an allegory of the Christian life.