

**Title: It's Just The Way I Am - Romans 9 14-24**

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**Read:**

<sup>4-18</sup>Is that grounds for complaining that God is unfair? Not so fast, please. God told Moses, "I'm in charge of mercy. I'm in charge of compassion." Compassion doesn't originate in our bleeding hearts or moral sweat, but in God's mercy. The same point was made when God said to Pharaoh, "I picked you as a bit player in this drama of my salvation power." All we're saying is that God has the first word, initiating the action in which we play our part for good or ill. <sup>19</sup>Are you going to object, "So how can God blame us for anything since he's in charge of everything? If the big decisions are already made, what say do we have in it?" <sup>20-24</sup>Who in the world do you think you are to second-guess God? Do you for one moment suppose any of us knows enough to call God into question? Clay doesn't talk back to the fingers that mould it, saying, "Why did you shape me like this?" Isn't it obvious that a potter has a perfect right to shape one lump of clay into a vase for holding flowers and another into a pot for cooking beans? If God needs one style of pottery especially designed to show his angry displeasure and another style carefully crafted to show his glorious goodness, isn't that all right? Either or both happens to Jews, but it also happens to the other people.

**Think:**

So there we have it. God has made all the decisions, God has ultimate power. God has made me. Therefore if I do something wrong it's not my fault. Wouldn't that be sweet? We could steal from the shops, and just say sorry but God made me greedy. We could shout and scream at people and just say, "Sorry God gave me a temper." It doesn't matter what we do because that's just the way God made us. But we know that isn't the truth don't we? God has given us certain personality traits. God has given us certain desires. But the other problem we have is, God has given us free will. You see that's the problem at the end of the day we know what is right and we know what is wrong and we have the ability to choose. We can choose whether to steal that CD or we can choose not to. We can choose whether to shout at our parents and we can choose not to. Sometimes I think it would have been easier if God had made us robots, but who are we to second guess what God sees as being the right way to make us? So I guess we had better just go on making the choices we make, and understanding that when we stand in front of God, it is down to us what we have done with what he has given us.

**Pray:**

Father please help me use all that you have given me to the very best of my ability and for your Glory. Amen.

**Action:**

Have you prayed for those who care for you? Take the time now to pray for one of the people who care for you. Cheerio.