

After my visit to the potter, where I saw many shards littering his work area, I realized that I myself have broken things many times in my life. These items were ruined, of course, and I have never felt that anything I broke ever become more valuable.

We are all broken, but we are still valuable to God. We don't always see our own brokenness<sup>1</sup>, but we all know someone that we consider is broken. I know I do. I have come to realize that some people break with very sharp, harmful edges. Others, though shattered, produce smooth pieces that are not hurtful to others - that is how I want to be. I believe that our broken edges can be being smoothed by God with the flow of living water over us<sup>2</sup>, just as sharp stones in the river or broken glass in the ocean become smooth over time.

Consider that Christ was broken also; but He is worth more to us because He is broken. Christ's brokenness made him the most valuable thing possible for human existence and we celebrate that in our Communion with Him. The pieces of Him that we consume as we participate in His Supper help us to consider His continual Presence and are the most wonderful illustrations of God's Beauty<sup>3</sup> and Goodness. They are the greatest blessing we could know, and are perhaps the only measure of God's Awesome Truth that we can actually handle. In partaking of it we make a vital, life-giving connection to Him.

The brokenness of Christ is of the smooth, healing category. Through that brokenness, we have a new covenant<sup>4</sup>. God smoothes our broken edges and re-assembles<sup>5</sup> us into a new creation<sup>6</sup>. The blood of Christ is essentially the means<sup>7</sup> by which this re-attachment is accomplished.

As I seek to more fully understand my own brokenness, I treasure the great value of the Christ who was crushed<sup>8</sup> for us.

1. Matthew 7:3-5
2. John 4:14; whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.
3. consider the words of Rick McKinley: "I think of beauty pushing through brokenness," from [This Beautiful Mess: Practicing the Presence of the Kingdom of God](#), p.9
4. 1 Corinthians 11:25
5. see the re-assembly of dry bones, etc., in Ezekiel 37
6. 2 Corinthians 5:17
7. i.e., the "glue"
8. Isaiah 53:5; "But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed."