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Did everyone have to take 6th grade wood shop? It would have never been, a choice in my schedule, just as most of the 6th grade boys would not have chosen to wear an apron and join home -ec. Sadly, 12 year olds at Desert Hills Middle School had to jump through certain hoops to make it to the 7th grade.

The plan was to get through the class, make something for my mother, and not lose any fingers in the process. I quickly chose to make a set of salt and pepper shakers thinking that it would fulfill all the requirements. The shakers started out as one piece of 4x4 lumber and by the end of the class had been transformed into one well rounded solid cylinder. Not exactly a success. The process of becoming more like Christ is fortunately in the hands of a Master, and unlike the skill level of a 12 year old girl, the Craftsman has a perfect plan and purpose for His creation.

Philippians 1:6 gives us a picture of the work that is being done in us.

“For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.” NAS

What a promise. There is a Master Craftsman, with ultimate abilities, wisdom, and love, chiseling away the parts that do not belong in His plans. We can be confident, that His work will continue until the project...us...is complete.

Of course there is frustration along the way. We run into people that are further “behind” in their process than we are, or those who look more “complete”. It is easy to get caught up in comparison and disappointment and therefore become discouraged. In reality, it should spark hope inside of us. None of us are out of the process if we remain in Christ, because God is in the business of renewal, remodeling, and reconstruction.

Where does women’s ministries fit into all of this? We want to be a part of God’s tool box in your life. It’s His Word, His people, His work that all begin to shape us into His image. That’s what women’s ministries exists for. Our hope is that you will find a Bible study, sewing group, or new mentor that fits into your schedule so that Damascus Community Church can be a part of shaping you. We know that it is not a program or planned event that will bring true change, instead, it’s the sandpaper of his Word and the “people chisel” that break through the tough exterior into the tender areas that need to be transformed.

It is clear; being a master craftsman is not in my future. My salt & pepper shakers never made it to my mother’s table, though I did pass on to 7th grade and kept all my fingers. However, in God’s “wood shop” class, there is total confidence that we, His projects, will not only pass, but will be carried through to perfection in His time.

In His service,

Amy Kendall

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