

Get Involved with Us as We Pursue Excellence, Value ALL People, Fuel and Display Passion, Choose a Good Attitude at ALL Times

## Deep Dive – Created/Formed pt. 4

Stewart Farley – 2/22/26

### Scriptures

Ephesians 2:8–10 / Galatians 4:19 / Isaiah 43:1 / Genesis 1:1–2 /  
Genesis 32:24–30 / Genesis 35:9–12 / Genesis 37:3 /  
2 Corinthians 5:17 / Philippians 2:5–8 / Romans 8:29

### Created vs. Formed

Isaiah 43:1 reveals a powerful pattern:

“Who created you, O Jacob... who formed you, O Israel.”

The message emphasizes that creation happens instantly, but formation is a process.

We are created in Christ by His death, but formed by His life.

“It is possible to be a New Creation without experiencing the Formation.”

“We become a New Creation by His death... but a New Formation by His life.”

- Discussion Questions:
  - What does it mean to be created versus formed in the image of God?
  - Where have you experienced being “created” but not yet “formed”?
  - How does embracing His life (not just His death) change your spiritual growth?

### The Identity Crisis: Jacob vs. Israel

Genesis 32–35 shows Jacob wrestling, receiving a new name, and yet still calling himself Jacob. God repeatedly says: “You’re not Jacob anymore... you’re Israel.”

“This is NOT a duality message — IT’S AN IDENTITY CRISIS!”

“The struggle is not Jacob vs. Israel. The struggle is believing what God said.”

God can bless Jacob, but He can only build a nation from Israel.

- Discussion Questions:
  - Why do you think Jacob kept identifying as Jacob after God renamed him?
  - What “Jacob” identities do you still answer to?
  - What would it look like to fully embrace your “Israel” identity?

### The Mother and the Father

The notes highlight a generational pattern: Rebekah loved Jacob. Israel loved Joseph.

The message draws a parallel:

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“We will never produce the true identity of the Father from the Mother.”

“We’ve taken on the image of the Church rather than the image of the Father.”

Many believers bond with the Mother (the Church) but never bond with the Father.

- Discussion Questions:
  - What does it mean to take on the image of the Church instead of the Father?
  - How does bonding with the Father reshape your identity?
  - Where have you seen religion shape identity more than a relationship?

### New Creation vs. New Formation

2 Corinthians 5:17 declares us a new creation.

Philippians 2:5–8 shows Christ in the form of God.

Romans 8:29 says we are being conformed to His image.

“Even inside this New Creation Man, there’s a formation going on.”

“Some people stay at the dying and never get to the living.”

- Discussion Questions:
  - What does “formation” look like in your life right now?
  - How does the Holy Spirit form Christ in you?
  - What keeps believers stuck at the “death” side of the gospel?

### Alive to God: The Law of the Spirit of Life

The message emphasizes that being dead to sin is not the end goal.

“It’s not enough just to be dead to something — we must become alive to something.”

“There’s a Higher Law — the Law of Life in Christ Jesus.”

Formation is about living in the power of His life, not merely avoiding sin.

- Discussion Questions:
  - What does it mean to be “alive unto God”?
  - How does the Law of the Spirit of Life shape your daily decisions?
  - Where do you need to shift from death-focused to life-focused thinking?

### Wrestling With Identity

Genesis 32:24 says Jacob was “left alone and wrestled with a man.”

The message suggests the wrestling was not with an external enemy but with identity.

“What if there’s not two men at work in you — just one you haven’t identified with yet?”

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- Discussion Questions:
  - What areas of your identity are you wrestling with?
  - How can these struggles lead to transformation?
  - What would it look like to stop wrestling and start agreeing with God?

### Call to Action / Personal Application

This week, spend 10 minutes each day reflecting on your identity in Christ.

- Practice:
  - Stand in front of a mirror.
  - Speak your Israel identity out loud.
  - Declare what God says about you.
  - Meditate on Galatians 4:19 and Philippians 2:5–8.
  - Journal one way you see Christ being formed in you.
  - Share one insight with a friend or group member.