

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

Deep Dive – *Title: Created/Formed Part 2* Stewart Farley 2-8-26

1. Opening Reflection (5 minutes)

Invite participants to settle in and reflect on the central question of the teaching: “Is it possible to be a new creature and a new creation without experiencing formation?”

2. Scripture Foundations (10–15 minutes) Use these passages to frame the conversation around creation, formation, identity, and purpose.

Key Texts

- **Ephesians 2:8–10** — Created *in Christ* for good works.
- **Galatians 4:19** — Christ *formed* in you.
- **Isaiah 43:1** — “Who created you... who formed you...”
- **Genesis 1:1–5** — The earth was *formless* until God spoke order.
- **Genesis 1:26** — Humanity created as God’s image-bearers.

Discussion Questions

- What is the difference between being **created** and being **formed**?
- Why does Scripture emphasize both?
- Where do you see God’s forming work active in your life right now?

3. Identity, Formation, and the Mirror (10 minutes) The teaching emphasizes that: “When you look in the mirror, what you see is what is being formed.”

Discussion Questions

- What “identity messages” shape how people see themselves today?
- How does God “flash His identity” across our lives the way He did across the waters in Genesis 1?
- What happens when we continue to call ourselves by old names, like Jacob did?

4. Understanding the Story of Scripture (15 minutes) The teaching argues that if you miss the beginning of the story, you misunderstand the rest.

Key Themes to Explore

- The Bible begins with **chaos, darkness, and formlessness**.
- God brings **order, structure, and purpose** through His Word and Spirit.
- Creation is not merely about making *things*—it is about establishing **order**.
- Humanity is placed in a world that is **good**, but still requires **wise management**.

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Discussion Questions

- How does understanding Genesis 1 reshape the way we see the world today?
- What does it mean that creation is “good but under bad management”?
- How does this challenge the idea that God’s goal is to remove us from the world?

5. Humans as God’s Image-Bearers (10–15 minutes) The teaching highlights that humans are God’s appointed images—His representatives.

Key Ideas

- An image is a **representation**, not the original.
- Humans were created to **rule on God’s behalf**.
- The core problem in Genesis 3 is that humans want to rule **without God**.

Discussion Questions

- What does it mean to “image God” in daily life?
- Where do you see the tension between God’s rule and human self-rule in the world today?
- How does this understanding shape our calling as leaders, parents, coworkers, and neighbors?

6. Jesus as the True Human (10 minutes) The teaching presents Jesus as:

- The human who rules the way we were meant to.
- The one who absorbs the consequences of human mismanagement.
- The one who brings the Kingdom of God **here**, not somewhere else.

Discussion Questions

- How does Jesus redefine leadership and rulership?
- What does it mean that the Kingdom of God has “arrived in Him”?
- How does Jesus’ model of servanthood challenge our assumptions about power?

7. Formation Today — The Spirit’s Work (10 minutes) Just as God’s Spirit hovered over the waters, the Spirit hovers over the chaos in our lives.

Discussion Questions

- Where do you sense the Spirit hovering over areas of formlessness in your life?
- What does “formation” look like in practical terms—habits, disciplines, community, surrender?
- How do we cooperate with God’s forming work rather than resist it?

8. Closing Reflection & Prayer (5 minutes) Invite participants to reflect on:

“What is God forming in me right now, and how can I respond?”

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