



THEOLOGICAL DNA of WAUKESHA BIBLE CHURCH

OUR GOSPEL DNA

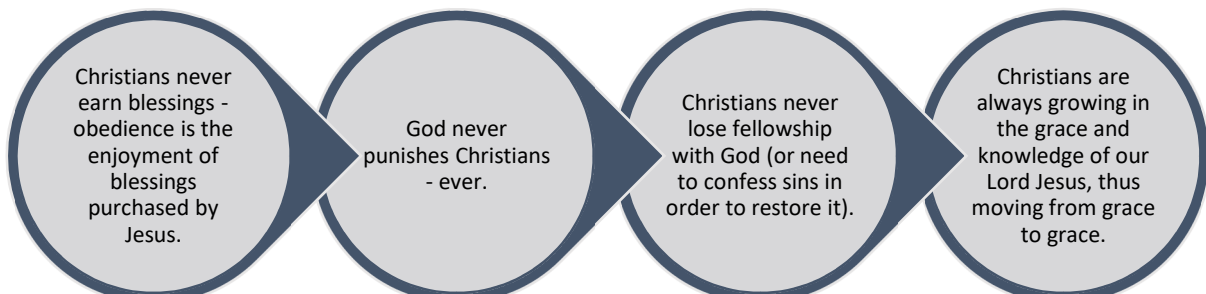
Our “Theological DNA” (otherwise known as our “Grace Message”) may be described in the following manner:

The centrality of the Gospel and the implications of the gospel both vertically and horizontally; and the application of the same in our handling of Scripture and People.

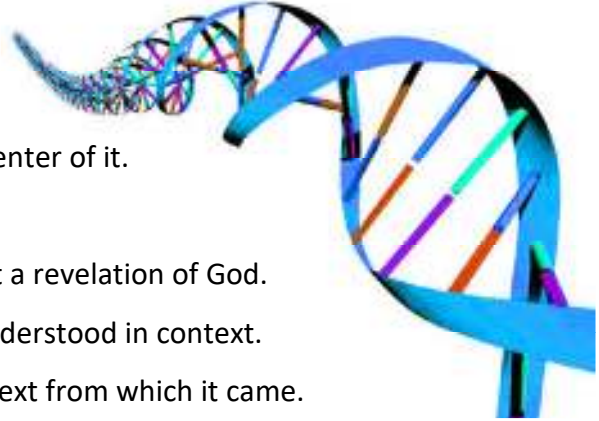
Because of how glorious and complete Jesus’ work is:

1. Nothing anyone does can earn God’s blessing or merit God’s favor in any way. This includes Christians. Because of our position in Christ, because of how thorough His work was, and how powerful and gracious He is – no “performance” can earn us additional blessings, nor “failures” lose us the blessings purchased by His blood.
2. The Father never deals with a believer’s sin in a “punishing” way – God never “chastens” us in His wrath, because Jesus took that for us. God is never angry with a Christian – God is always, only, pleased with them. Though sin affects our human relationships, it no longer (ever and forever) affects our relationship with God.
3. Therefore, nothing Christians do earn additional favor(s) from God or absolves them of fresh sins. Believers do not need to continue to ask for forgiveness. They never need to “get right” or “get back into fellowship” with God. They cannot “pray” or “obey” their way into extra blessings, since they can never reverse or add to what Christ has already done.
4. Therefore, traditional Christian “disciplines” are given to us as grace – for our joy, not as a vehicle to “higher living” or “greater success.” They must never be used as means of causing guilt against our own selves or others, but as celebrations of grace.

Reducing it down to our specific, unique, peculiarities of our theology –



OUR HERMENEUTICAL DNA



1. The Bible tells a single *Story* and JESUS is at the center of it.
2. The Bible is not about the reader, but about God.
3. The Bible is not an instruction manual for life, but a revelation of God.
4. All passages of Scripture will be examined and understood in context.
5. All application of a text will be bound by the context from which it came.
6. The Hermeneutical principles employed by those who teach at WBC will follow the guidelines provided by the SIMEON TRUST.

OUR ELDER DNA

The Elder's PRIME DIRECTIVE:

- **To ensure every message, ministry, study etc. bears the mark of our "Theological DNA".**
- **Elders teach, shepherd and pray accordingly.**
- **Elders protect the message internally (theological and relational fidelity in WBC)**
- **Elders promote the message externally (writing, teaching, church planting)**

What is our Theological DNA? (might also be known as our "Grace message")

- **The centrality of the Gospel and**
 - **The implications of the gospel both vertically and horizontally and**
 - **The application of the same in our handling of scripture and people.**
 - **Gospel drives application**

OUR MISSIONS DNA – The Corporate Mission of the Local Church is to raise up internally those who can pastor existing churches or plant new churches.

1. Thus, we believe New Testament Missions has the mission of sharing the message of Christ with every tribe, tongue, people, and nation (Rev. 5:9) through evangelization, discipleship, culminating in the establishing of local churches (Matt. 28:18-20; Acts 14:27; 20:17; 28:32; 1 Tim. 3:13; Titus 1:5-11).
2. Thus, we believe Missions is carried out best by the local church (Matt. 28:18-20) to replicate itself with self-governing, inter-dependent local churches. Every local church should be connected to other local churches – locally, nationally, and globally. They should be indigenous culturally, autonomous politically, and sustainable financially in the long-term.

3. Thus, Church Planters are sent primarily through the local church community and supported by local churches. This does not negate individual gifting, but individual gifting cannot negate the church's responsibility of being the means through which the Holy Spirit sends missionaries (Acts 13:1ff). We also acknowledge God is working in and through His people who are not working under, in, and through local churches.
4. Thus, we believe it is the role of the local church to identify those on whom the call of God rests, to assist in the equipping process (2 Tim. 2:2), and to send them as approved workers (Acts 13:1-3). We also believe church planters should be "elder qualified" prior to their sending (1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9).
5. Thus, we believe a healthy partnership between local churches and agencies is often necessary in planting churches. The agency holds valuable training and support unique to foreign fields, even as the local church holds ultimate accountability for those sent.

OUR ECCLESIASTICAL DNA

1. We believe local church alignment is part of gospel consequence.
2. We believe the Christian life is lived in and through the local church.
3. We believe the Christian life identifies with a local church that has a biblical structure (i.e. Elders and Deacons), biblical pattern (i.e. Water Baptism and the Lord's Table), and biblical mission (i.e. Church Planting).

OUR MORAL DNA

1. We believe the JESUS SEED always and inevitably produces GOSPEL FRUIT.
2. We believe the greatest commandment and summation of the entire Law is to love God and as a result, to love one's neighbor.
3. We believe the NT teaches the inseparable relationship between one's justification and one's sanctification.
4. We believe faith and works must always go together and must always sequentially follow that order. Faith is causal and work is consequential. Paul and James agree.
5. We believe it is impossible to actually know God and yet to deny him by one's work.
6. We believe it is impossible to have the genuine form of godliness and yet to deny its power.
7. We believe although sanctification/fruit is inevitable, it is not measurable.
8. We believe the NT imperative is descriptive of the Christian and not prescriptive for the Christian.
9. We believe the imputed righteousness of Christ to the Christian, the Holy Spirit works in and through the Christian to those around the Christian. Thus, Christians live righteous lives.

OUR HISTORICAL DNA

1. The Apostles' Creed
2. The Nicene Creed
3. The Athanasius Creed
4. The Heidelberg Disputation (1518).
5. The Five Solas