IT'S IN YOUR DNA

We are children of God with His "DNA" within us. Our spiritual heritage should be evident in our lives.

KEY POINTS

- Historically, the phrase "Like father, like son" goes back to the early 18th century. Similarities to a parent are drawn not only from a child's actions, but also from their physical features.
- What causes these parent/child resemblances? D.N.A.
- Genes are made of a molecule called DNA, short for 'deoxyribonucleic acid'. The DNA molecule is a double helix: that is, two long, thin strands twisted around each other like a spiral staircase.
- DNA influences what we look like on the outside and how we work on the inside. DNA is hereditary.
- You can deny your identity in words, but it does not change who you are. It does not change your biological heritage. It does not change your DNA.
- THE CREATOR OF THIS UNIVERSE, THE ALL POWERFUL GOD, IS OUR FATHER.
- Our God is good at everything and can do all things. There are no negative genes in Him. Every good and perfect gift comes from Him.
- Our Father is excited about us. He wants to get close to us; wants us to know him as much as he knows us.
- We have his DNA. "Christ in you, the hope of glory" (Colossians 1:27).
- God's mark is upon us, even before the Holy Spirit is within us. When we *do* receive the Holy Spirit there is a transfer that takes place.
- Now there is a power within us, but yet beyond us. Bigger than us, yet contained in us. If given the opportunity it can explode into peoples' lives through us, yet bring order and peace. God's DNA within us gives us a power beyond ourselves (Acts 1:8), and we are re-connected to our original source.
- What do we receive with God's DNA?
  -We have power to be witnesses (Acts 1:8). This isn't only uttering words. It's our actions, our attitudes, and our lifestyle. Everything about us should reflect God.
  -We are able to manifest both the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23) and the gifts of the Spirit (1 Corinthians 12, Romans 12, 1 Peter 4) for the benefit of the gospel of Christ and His Kingdom.
  -We are able to resist temptation (Titus 2:11-12) and we are freed from condemnation (Romans 8:1).
  -God's DNA within us allows us to fight the good fight of faith (1 Timothy 6:12). This fight is not about us, but about the God in us conquering the evil in the world.
- 1 Corinthians 12:13 (NKJV) says, "…by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body…." It's in our DNA!
- We are the children of the King, with all rights and privileges. By virtue of our connection with Christ we are in heavenly places (Ephesians 2:4-6).

KEY SCRIPTURES

Jeremiah 1:4-5; Luke 24:49; Acts 1:8

- So why do we settle for what is not heavenly? Why do we settle for places where Christ is not?
- We have the ability to be God's eyes, hands, feet, ears and to show love like Jesus showed love to this world.
- Understanding the "Like Father, like son" concept can change us from being merely ordinary people, to being ordinary people doing extra-ordinary things through Christ (Philippians 4:13).
- However, even though children may inherit their parents abilities, that child must practice to improve his or her skills.
- Likewise, spiritual disciplines must be cultivated to help us to be more like Christ.
- Jesus not only spoke about prayer, He prayed consistently. He not only spoke about loving, He practiced it everywhere he went.
- Even though His nature is within us, we must practice those spiritual disciplines in order to develop them.
- His DNA IS ALREADY WITHIN YOU, CHILD OF GOD...so when do you plan to manifest His glory, manifest his love to this world? When are you going to allow Him to release the power that is within you?

DISCUSSION/REFLECTION TOOLS

1. Compare the transfer of human genetic information (from parent to child) to the transfer of spiritual characteristics through the "bloodline" of Christ. How are they alike/different?
2. If the Spirit of God is within us, is it possible to *not* have a "DNA match" with God (if such a test were possible)? Discuss, with scriptures.
3. When people compare the Church Body to the Lord, what similarities/differences do you think they see? (Reflect: What about me? How much do I resemble Father Jesus?)
4. Assuming that there are areas where we do not resemble Jesus, why might this be, and how can/must we change?

Prayer Time

Lord, You are a good Father. Help me to live so that others call me "my Father's child".
In Jesus' name. Amen.

L.G. ice-Breaker: In what ways are you similar to your biological and/or adoptive parents and/or siblings? What is a notable difference?

WEEK OF SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2017

NOTES

Meditate as you read through/listen to this week's message. If it helps, use symbols for your notes.

(Reminds me/Confirms) (New idea) (Think about)

(Do this) (Speaks to my heart) (Must share)

PRAYER NEEDS/THANKSGIVINGS