

DNA PACKAGE

WHAT IS DNA?

DNA is a molecule that carries genetic instructions for the development, functioning, growth and reproduction of all known organisms. Within this molecule, the instructions are given for all the functions and characteristics of a body. Every cell of any body carries the DNA that is unique to that body, and if a cell with a different DNA is inserted into a body, the defenses will take care of isolating, destroying, and eliminating it.

When I speak about DNA Package, I refer to a set of instructions for a particular community (body) of believers. This will have systematic and organic instructions for the development, functioning, growth and multiplication of this community of disciples.

WHERE DO WE FIND THIS IN THE SCRIPTURES?

In Scriptures we see what the Lord Jesus said to His disciples in the great commission. He said that the end of discipleship was to teach each other **to obey everything He had commanded**. The Lord had taught and given over an entire set of commandments, life principles, that were new to the Jewish community of His time. He also had explained about evangelism (as in Luke 10 and Matthew 10), about how to have fellowship with God, with one another, and many other topics. Furthermore, after His resurrection He appeared to His disciples and taught them about the Kingdom of God for 40 days (Acts 1). We see after Peter's first open preaching, that Peter knew exactly what to do when those 3000 people asked them what they needed to do to be saved.

What Luke narrated in Acts 2 describes clearly what the apostles had been instructed to do by the Lord:

So those who welcomed his message were baptized. That day about 3,000 people were added to their number. The believers continued to devote themselves to what the apostles were teaching, to fellowship, to the breaking of bread, and to times of prayer. A sense of fear came over everyone, and many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All the believers were united and shared everything with one another. They made it their practice to sell their possessions and goods and to distribute the proceeds to anyone who was in need. United in purpose, they went to the Temple every day, ate at each other's homes, and shared their food with glad and humble hearts. They were praising God and enjoying the good will of all the people. Every day the Lord was adding to their number those who were being saved.

Acts 2:41-47 ISV

According to this passage, we can clearly see that the apostles knew who to add to the church, what to teach, how to have fellowship together, how to have fellowship with God, how to perform miracles and care for the needs of each other within their community. They evangelized in the Temple daily, ate at each other's homes, and loving and humble, causing favor with the unbelievers. God responded to this structure by adding to the church those who were to be saved!

We see as well the apostle Paul having a defined set of "traditions," as he used to call it. There are different texts that reveal this:

Nevertheless, everyone should live the life that the Lord gave him and to which God called him. This is my rule in all the churches.

1 Corinthians 7:17 ISV

But if anyone wants to argue about this, we do not have any custom like this, nor do any of

God's churches.

1 Corinthians 11:16 ISV

In the name of our Lord Jesus, the Messiah, we command you, brothers, to keep away from every brother who is living in idleness and not living according to the tradition that they received from us.

2 Thessalonians 3:6 ISV

So then, brothers, stand firm, and cling to the traditions that you were taught by us, either by word of mouth or by our letter.

2 Thessalonians 2:15 ISV

These four texts are an example of Paul teaching a certain set of customs among the churches. Paul never planned on writing the “New Testament,” he just wrote what he thought best for the churches, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. Besides, they didn’t have any Bible with them. The only Scriptures available were the Torah, called the Law and the Prophets, written in scrolls that few would carry around. So, Paul had to learn from the twelve apostles and Barnabas what the Lord had taught about the church, and from the revelation he received in Arabia and Damascus for 3 years.

For I did not receive it from man, nor was I taught it except by a revelation of Jesus Christ. For you heard my manner of life when I was in Judaism, that I persecuted the church of God with surpassing zeal, and ravaged it. And I progressed in Judaism beyond many contemporaries in my race, being much more a zealot of the traditions of my fathers. But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb, and having called me by His grace, to reveal His Son in me so that I might preach Him among the nations, immediately I did not confer with flesh and blood; Nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those apostles before me, but I went into Arabia and returned again to Damascus. Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and stayed with him fifteen days.

Galatians 1:12-18 MKJV

All of these inputs put together brought Paul’s “DNA Package” into existence. But, if you get a chance to study the different strategies he used in each region where he worked, you will figure out that a lot of what he (and others) did had to do with the needs of the local people they were serving. In communities where laziness was an issue, they worked harder with their own hands to give an example (2 Thessalonians 3). In more studious communities, they would rent a school to teach there (Acts 19:8-10). In more multicultural communities, they would use workers from different nations (Romans 16).

WHAT SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN THE DNA PACKAGE?

Based on what has been seen above and other texts, it is clear that the following are very necessary points to include there:

1. Preaching of the Gospel
2. New Birth
3. Role of the Holy Spirit (baptism in the HS, being full of the Spirit, gifts, direction to the church, etc.)
4. Discipleship (one-on-one, marriage, family life, spiritual families, practical, etc.)
5. New apostolic teams
6. Multiplication
7. Leadership

Currently, the DNA Package I am trying to implement in our local network is based on the following mind map:



Detailed information on how to build your own DNA Package for your current mission field can be found on our Courses page: <https://www.kingdom-focus.com/courses/>