

## The DNA of the Great Commission

**Thesis:** Today, I want to speak about the DNA of our Master, the Lord Jesus Christ, which encodes and shapes the very being and nature of Christians—little Christs, followers of Jesus, sons and daughters of God Most High.

**Text:** Matthew 28:18-20; 2 Corinthians 5:17; John 3:1-7; Matthew 22:37-39; John 1:12-13; Hebrews 2:10-11

Because of genes, genetic code, or DNA, we are wired to be a certain way in appearance, traits, or features. I believe we have some hard wiring at our deepest being with mannerisms or ways of being from our family tree. Don't worry. In my message today, I am not going to do a scientific presentation. **My goal today is to uncover new life for us in Christ.** **In particular, I want to speak about the DNA of our Master, the Lord Jesus Christ, which encodes and shapes the very being and nature of Christians—little Christs, followers of Jesus, sons and daughters of God Most High.**

Let me illustrate what I am talking about.

I have a friend who was separated from his son when this child was very young. Later, they re-united when the adult son came to live with his father and to re-connect. It was amazing to see what was encoded in the two. Both were musicians. Both had certain mannerisms even though they had not spent hardly any time together: in their shared humor, in their likes and their dislikes, and even in the way each one pulled up his pants. It was amazing to see the encoding and mannerisms.

On Monday night, April 19, 2021, I was asked to facilitate part of the *Greater Houston Prayer Council* Zoom prayer meeting. I facilitated 15 minutes on repentance from Philippians 1:27-30 and Philippians 4:4-6: *Whatever happens, conduct yourself in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. To conduct ourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ calls for steadfastness, unity, courage, and joy, even in the face of opposition and suffering.*

At the end of the meeting on Monday night, Colin Millar, one of the prayer leaders, spoke about **getting the DNA of Matthew 28:18-20** into every believer.

On Tuesday morning, April 20, I felt led to read in *Seek God for the City*, day 20. Here was that topic.

DAY 20 MONDAY - MARCH 8

**Seek God for salvation in every sector of society**

Here is what I wrote in my journal that morning.

This is no coincidence. I am moved to tears as I read through Hawthorne's prayers and prayed those words unto you. My heart aches for the lost, the lonely, and the hurting to find salvation in you.

Thank you for letting me share your heart this morning. Thank you for seeking the lost of our city in every sector of society. Thank you that you have birthed us with the DNA of Matthew 28:18-20, so that immediately, we can share the gospel with others in order to make disciples, baptizing them and teaching them to follow your ways.

### **The DNA of Matthew 28:18-20.**

*Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. 17 When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. 18 Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age" (Matthew 28:16-20).*

#### **1. Followers of Jesus have a new DNA.**

- a. Look at what God has done! In Christ, we are a new creation; we are born again of God; we belong to the family of God; we are encoded to love; we are brothers and sisters of Christ.
  - i. **We are a new creation in Christ.** *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! (2 Corinthians 5:17).*
  - ii. **We are born again of God** (John 3:1-7). *Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a member of the Jewish ruling council. 2 He came to Jesus at night and said, "Rabbi, we know you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the miraculous signs you are doing if God were not with him." 3 In reply Jesus declared, "I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again." 4 "How can a man be born when he is old?" Nicodemus asked. "Surely he cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb to be born!" 5 Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. 6 Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. 7 You*

*should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again' (John 3:1-7).*

- iii. **We belong to the family of God.** *Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— 13 children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God (John 1:12-13).*
  - iv. **We are encoded to love.** *Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together. 35 One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: 36 "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" 37 Jesus replied: " 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' 38 This is the first and greatest commandment. 39 And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' 40 All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments" (Matthew 22:34-40).*
  - v. **We are brothers and sisters of Christ.** *In bringing many sons [and daughters] to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the author of their salvation perfect through suffering. 11 Both the one who makes men holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers [and sisters] (Hebrews 2:10-11).*
- b. God is our Father, with the vision of conforming us to the image of his Son. God's heartbeat, values, and vision now course through our lives.
  - c. Jesus is our Lord and Christ. We are brothers and sisters to the Son of God, with his life and DNA coursing through our being.
  - d. The Spirit of Christ lives in us, helping us to think, learn, experience, and become like Jesus.
  - e. Followers of Jesus have a new DNA.
2. **Followers of Jesus have submitted to a new authority structure** (Matthew 28:18).
- a. *Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. 17 When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. 18 Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age" (Matthew 28:16-20).*
  - b. Jesus has rightful claim and authority over all things in heaven and on earth.

- c. Jesus has shared his authority with us.
  - d. Jesus has **authorized, commanded, and commissioned** us to make disciples of every people group.
3. **Followers of Jesus have the authority (right) and anointing (empowerment) to make new disciples who follow Jesus, saying and doing what Jesus says and does.**
- a. So, let's share good news of the kingdom of God with people and help them become a follower of Jesus.
    - i. In our spheres of influence: family place, neighborhood place, workplace, school place, and other places.
    - ii. As the Lord prompts or leads us locally, nationally, or globally.
    - iii. You are **authorized** and **anointed** (empowered) to share what you have seen, heard, and experienced of the Lord with others (Acts 1:8; 1 John 1:1-3).
      - 1. *But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8).*
      - 2. *That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched—this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. 2 The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us. 3 We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ (1 John 1:1-3).*
    - iv. **One way to witness is to have transformation conversations with others**, casting vision regarding your current reality and preferred future in Jesus with clarity, authenticity, and passion. **Let them see and hear what God is currently doing in your life, even in the mess and the process.** That keeps transformation alive in you and gives the Holy Spirit room to speak to them.
  - b. I am hearing stories from missionaries of people with whom they are reaching out and sharing good news, the people these missionaries are discipling, who are now sharing that good news with others. **These seekers are discipling others, even before they have given their lives to Jesus.** Good news is contagious. Good news of the kingdom of God is transforming.
  - c. **Let's help new followers become aware of their new DNA:**

- i. A new believer in Christ is a new creation, is born again of God, belongs to the family of God, is encoded to love, and is a brother or sister of Christ.
- ii. A new believer is authorized, commanded, and commissioned to go and share with others about Jesus and to begin making disciples immediately.
- iii. A new believer can help others find a time and place to get baptized.
- iv. A new believer can teach the other person what they know of Jesus and learn with them.

### **Summary**

The DNA of our Master, the Lord Jesus Christ, encodes and shapes the very being and nature of our lives as Christians. The word "Christian" means "little Christs." A Christian is a follower of Jesus. A Christian is a son or daughter of God Most High because of the work and presence of Jesus in and through his or her life.

### **Ministry Time**

## **Seek God for the City 2021**

DAY 20 MONDAY - MARCH 8

### **Seek God for salvation in every sector of society**

*Because of the iniquity of his unjust gain I was angry and struck him. I hid My face and was angry, and he went on turning away, in the way of his heart. I have seen his ways, but I will heal him. I will lead him and restore comfort to him. – Isaiah 57: 17-18 (NASB)*

You know the story of every oppressor just as well as the ones who are oppressed. Your judgment is marvelous, somehow melding deep love with white hot wrath. You are long-suffering, allowing people to keep turning away from You, following the foolishness of their hearts. But in Your mercy You pursue them. We pray on behalf of those who have grown wealthy by injustice. In Your wrath, remember Your mercy. Renew their damaged hearts. Heal the harm they have done. Lead them, restore them, even comfort them. May forgiveness flow in ways that give You praise.

*All the people... began to mutter, "He has gone to be the guest of a 'sinner'." But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount." Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house." – Luke 19: 7-9*

You rocked the whole city when You brought salvation to Zacchaeus. The next day people stood amazed in the streets, holding bags of gold in their hands that Zacchaeus had returned to them. Bring salvation to our city in the same way. Visit the homes of the rich, the poor, the powerful, and even the criminal, so that many are changed and the entire city celebrates Your salvation.

Pray:

- For salvation to abound in every sector of society, changing hearts and restoring relationships.
- That wealth in our city will be used justly and given freely for good works that honor God.

### **Seek God on behalf of law enforcement and judges**

*Blessed are they who maintain justice, who constantly do what is right. – Psalm 106: 3*

Pray for godly wisdom and Christ-like integrity; for physical and emotional protection; for courage and blessing for their families. Pray that they will become agents of God's hand to resist evil and bring an environment in which heaven's justice can increase. (Steve Hawthorne. Seek God For The City 2021 [Kindle Locations 548-571]. WayMakers.)