

## New Braunfels Bible Church

### 'DNA': Principles of Our Existence

God wants NBBC to be strong: As we mature as a body of believers, we need a 'DNA', guiding principles by which we will live and grow. God's words to Paul in 2 Corinthians 12:9-10 focus on His grace: "*My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.*" Our real strength as a body of believers comes from God, as we live out His grace in our corporate body life.

Our birth as a body of believers was the result of other believers desiring to reproduce. In the same way, it is our goal to reproduce spiritually, both individually and corporately. We honor God by obeying the Great Commission and reproducing disciples, and encouraging and enabling further reproduction through the establishment of other local churches.

Using the word G-R-A-C-E as a guiding acronym, the following principles reflect our spiritual heart as a congregation desiring to reproduce, and a guide for our vision as we look to the future.

#### 1. Reproduction through Growth

##### *Discipleship, Teaching*

Believing God's Word, the Bible, to be the singular and sole basis for truth and instruction in the Christian life, we make it our fundamental goal to teach God's Word faithfully, and in a way which is relevant to the issues and needs of contemporary society. This is a centerpiece of our corporate gatherings, but also will define our small group ministry. We will assiduously seek to incorporate every believer into a group in which scripture will be studied and applied to daily life.

#### 2. Reproduction through Relationships

##### *Small Groups, Retreats, Fellowships*

The Church is called the body of Christ, a united spiritual organism with many members. No part of this body was intended by God to function in isolation; rather, we need each other, and God is glorified when we exhibit love for one another. Our goal is to provide opportunities for fellowship and deepening friendships to help us all navigate the roads of life. We value small groups, where people feel welcomed and loved, and no one gets lost in the crowd.

#### 3. Reproduction through Adoration

##### *Corporate Worship, Prayer*

Intimacy with God is contagious! When one person draws closer to the Lord, it spreads to others. The reality of personal spiritual life attracts others to pursue authentic Christian experience. To this end, we will create and promote opportunities for believers to corporately worship the Lord in song and praise, and enter His presence in prayer.

#### 4. Reproduction through Caring

##### *Mercy ministry, Benevolence*

People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care. The apostles made caring a priority, lest the gospel message lose credibility. Jesus cared for physical and emotional needs. "True religion," James writes, is caring for those who are in "distress". Paul echoes, "let us do good to all men...especially to those who are of the household of the faith" (Galatians 6:10). We will encourage, endorse, and incorporate strategic caring ministry into our church life.

#### 5. Reproduction through Evangelism

##### *Witnessing, Missions, Church Planting*

First and last, and every point in-between, spreading the Good News, the gospel of God's grace, is what God wants us to do. We are 'ambassadors for Christ' entrusted with the good news that saves souls. Therefore, we will seek in our training, in planting churches, and in our giving to encourage and establish the spread of the gospel of grace, that eternal life is the gift of God, granted freely apart from works, solely on the basis of faith alone in the finished work of Christ alone.