

Zion's River—Discipleship

Spiritual DNA

Session 1—Spiritual DNA and the Kingdom Church

May 23, 2023

Introduction to the Spiritual DNA Course

- 1 Where does this course fit-in with Zion's River's Discipleship?
 - If you're new to the Lord...
 - If you're new to Zion's River...
 - If you have a heart for ministry and future leadership in Zion's River...
- 2 We all bring to our church fellowship a history full of experiences that dramatically influence our engagement.
- 3 Healthy engagement in a Church family requires a strong understanding of what guides and drives a churches mission.

Spiritual DNA

- 1 **The Importance of Spiritual DNA**
 - Biological DNA is the template upon which all the building blocks of life are built—it is the blueprint that makes you, you.
 - While we are all human, our DNA also creates unique streams of people with a diversity of culture.
 - Like physical DNA, spiritual DNA determines how everything appears and works in the believer's life and in the Church.
 - Spiritual DNA creates the blueprint that gives life and structure to a local church and places her into unique streams of people with a diverse Kingdom culture.
 - Understanding the unique DNA that makes up a Church family is critical to unity and healthy growth.
- 2 **The Foundation of Zion's River's Spiritual DNA**
 - **The "Gospel of the Kingdom" is always the mission.**
 - Jesus saves. Jesus fills. Jesus heals. Jesus reigns.

- **God's love is always the answer.**
 - The LOVE of God radically exceeds any of our natural understandings or sensibilities.

- **God's Spirit is always the path.**
 - God's Presence (within and without) is everything for daily guidance and empowerment.

- **Heaven is always a *now* reality.**
 - Heaven is a Kingdom culture identity more than a destination.

3 Spiritual Parents & Families

- **1 Corinthians 4:15–17 (ESV) — 15** For though you have countless guides in Christ, you do not have many fathers. For I became your father in Christ Jesus through the gospel. **16** I urge you, then, be imitators of me. **17** That is why I sent you Timothy, my beloved and faithful child in the Lord, to remind you of my ways in Christ, as I teach them everywhere in every church.

- We all have access to information; but having a spiritual family gives us roots to a greater movement.

4 Divergent Streams within the Church

- **Romans 15:18–20 (ESV) — 18** For I will not venture to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me to bring the Gentiles to obedience—by word and deed, **19** by the power of signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God—so that from Jerusalem and all the way around to Illyricum I have fulfilled the ministry of the gospel of Christ; **20** and thus I make it my ambition to preach the gospel, not where Christ has already been named, lest I build on someone else's foundation.
 - Paul had a unique ministry based upon a unique set of visionary mandates.
 - Paul avoided building “on someone else's foundation.”

- **Galatians 2:7–9 (ESV) — 7** On the contrary, when they saw that I had been entrusted with the gospel to the uncircumcised, just as Peter had been entrusted with the gospel to the circumcised **8** (for he who worked through Peter for his apostolic ministry to the circumcised worked also through me for mine to the Gentiles), **9** and when James and Cephas and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that was given to me, they gave the right hand of fellowship to Barnabas and me, that we should go to the Gentiles and they to the circumcised.
 - Peter was the Apostle to the Jews.
 - Paul was the Apostle to the Gentiles.

- What are some modern-day examples?

5 Other Gospels (that are not Gospels)

- **Galatians 1:6–9 (ESV) — 6** I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel— **7** not that there is another one, but there are some who trouble you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. **8** But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed. **9** As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed.
- Not all spiritual DNA is of the Kingdom of God.

6 We may all be in one body but we are all born-again for a specific role and gift.

- **1 Corinthians 12:12 (ESV) — 12** For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.
- We fit somewhere—it's in the genetic code!

7 Jesus' highest prayer for us is UNITY.

- **John 17:20–23 (CSB) — 20** "I pray not only for these, but also for those who believe in me through their word. **21** May they all be one, as you, Father, are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us, so that the world may believe you sent me. **22** I have given them the glory you have given me, so that they may be one as we are one. **23** I am in them and you are in me, so that they may be made completely one, that the world may know you have sent me and have loved them as you have loved me.

The Gospel of the Kingdom

1 At the core of Zion's River's DNA, is the "Gospel of the Kingdom".

- **John 3:16-17 (ESV) — 16** "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. **17** For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.
 - Jesus did not save us from God but for God.
- **Matthew 9:35–38 (ESV) — 35** And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction. **36** When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. **37** Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; **38** therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."
 - The Gospel of the Kingdom affects real life and real issues.

- **Mark 1:14–15 (ESV)** — **14** Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, **15** and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.”
 - We are called out of this world and into the reign of God.

- **Luke 3:16–17 (ESV)** — **16** John answered them all, saying, “I baptize you with water, but he who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. **17** His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”
 - The Gospel of the Kingdom of God is a life of IMMERSION in the Holy Spirit.

- **Colossians 1:15–20 (ESV)** — **15** He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. **16** For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. **17** And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. **18** And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. **19** For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, **20** and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.
 - The Gospel of the Kingdom is all encompassing; it affects every realm, power, and authority.

- 2 **The Nature and Quality of the Kingdom**
 - **Romans 14:17 (ESV)** — **17** For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.
 - The Kingdom is not about religious practice, but internal connection and relationship.

 - **1 Corinthians 4:20 (ESV)** — **20** For the kingdom of God does not consist in talk but in power.
 - The Kingdom is not an argument; it's about real transformation.

 - **John 18:36 (ESV)** — **36** Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world.”
 - The Kingdom is not represented by any kingdom here.

 - **John 3:5–8 (ESV)** — **5** Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. **6** That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. **7** Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ **8** The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”
 - The Kingdom is a life of Spirit!

