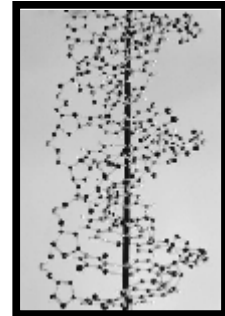


DNA

There is much conversation about DNA in this day and time – but what is this organic code all about? Here is a little information that I've collected on the subject.

DNA stands for deoxyribonucleic acid, and is the molecule that carries genetic information. Near the end of the American Civil War, genes were first studied as the link between physical similarities of parents and offspring. The work or studies of Gregor Mendel enabled improved breeding of livestock. He developed several laws structured on the discovery and purpose of genes transferred from parent to offspring.



DNA can be obtained from the organism's remaining tissue. On this premise, such ideas as collecting, developing, and actually growing once-extinct animals have been entertained in the movie industry {for example, Jurassic Park}. Still, DNA can serve many other purposes in criminal investigations whereby hair samples, blood, and other organic material can be used to link the crime to the suspect. A second application has involved genetic engineering to include the improved development and growth of plants or breeding of animals.

Each of you has a DNA code that shares both the code of your mother and I. Certainly, the most apparent evidence of that combination is in your physical features such as your hair color and texture, eye color, face, and body dimensions. Matthew, you and Brian probably have your curly or wavy hair from me; whereas, Abby and Ben have your straight hair from your mother. Similarly, the two of you have blue eyes like me and, again Ben and Abby have the brown eyes. Other less-apparent features result from a combination of the two gene pools. Your features can be matched to your DNA code.



Though you share our genes, each of you is unique as God formed you. Each of you have a unique finger print that no other person shares. What is amazing beyond this limited description of genes and DNA is the understanding that each of us was known by God before we were born. Psalm 139 discusses that fact that God *created my inmost being and knit me together in my mother's womb.*

How wonderful to see the similarity of each of you to me; yet, how much more exciting to know that God knew you before I did and has planned all the days of your life. Thanks to our Lord for each of you...and for your unique DNA.

In a

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