

STATE OF OUR UNION ADDRESS #4
“Fruit with the Seed in It”
January 6-8, 2006

¹¹Then God said, “Let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their various kinds.” And it was so. ¹²The land produced vegetation: plants bearing seed according to their kinds and trees bearing fruit with seed in it according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good. ¹³And there was evening, and there was morning—the third day.

Genesis 1:11-13 TNIV

Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ.

1 Corinthians 12:12 TNIV

Introduction: Since God created every living thing with genetic information for its preservation, and since the Bible refers to the Church as a living body, it is reasonable to assume that each local church has unique DNA of a sort. In fact, science is now teaching us that human organizations tend to display organic traits like the persons who compose them. Columbia has a unique DNA that determines its personality and life cycle, just as individuals do, and this “coding” is consistent with the body of Christ described in the founding account of the first church in Acts 2.

- I. Columbia’s Core Values Are Our DNA
(See reverse page.)
- II. Also Encoded in Columbia’s DNA are Other Qualities
 - A. Unity
 - B. Innovation and Entrepreneurial Spirit
 - C. Creative Adaptation
 - D. Quality Lay Leadership
 - E. Appreciation for Pastoral Leadership
 - F. Mutual Respect
 - G. Etc.
- III. Rediscovering Columbia!
- IV. Growing Into the Future

Conclusion: All that is required to “Ignite Passion for Jesus Christ from Metro Washington to the World” is all that we already have. God has uniquely gifted and empowered us to claim the future in His name. Our fruit has the seed in it.

Columbia Baptist Church’s
Ten Biblical Core Values

Genuine Witness – *Acts 2:39-41, 43, 47* – We are the presence of Christ in our time, relevant to a pluralistic society and on mission to reach the world with the love of Jesus.

Warm Welcome – *Acts 2:41, 47* – We invite others to become part of our church family, and enthusiastically accept them as they come.

Biblical Foundation – *Acts 2:42* – We teach and learn God’s Word in order to grow as followers of Christ.

Christ-Exalting Worship – *Acts 2:42, 46-47* – We are believers whose purpose is to glorify our Creator, gathering regularly to praise God and celebrate Christ’s life, death, and resurrection.

Constant Prayer – *Acts 2:42, 46* – We are a people in continual communication with God in the name of Jesus and under the leadership of the Holy Spirit.

Gifted Servanthood – *Acts 2:42-43* – We are a congregation of people who serve God by exercising equally the gifts given us by the Holy Spirit: “every member a minister.”

Authentic Community – *Acts 2:42, 44, 46* – We are unified in vision and purpose even as we affirm our diversity; trusting, forgiving, and encouraging one another for the common good.

Joyful Giving – *Acts 2:44-45* – We offer all that we have to God selflessly, taking great pleasure in being used of God.

Intentional Caring – *Acts 2:44-46* – We embody Christ’s compassion and concern for all people, so we care for one another in organized and purposeful ways.

Demonstrated Integrity – *Acts 2:47* – We are an association of persons known by believers and unbelievers alike for its honor and accountability.