

New Braunfels Bible Church

Our **purpose** is to glorify God by being and making disciples of Jesus Christ

‘DNA’ - Who we are:

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. 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. 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. 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. 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. 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.

NBBC Position Statements

We believe that the following doctrinal points must be addressed because these issues have divided many churches. These are not intended to be exhaustive statements but are simply designed to let you know what we believe. If you need further explanation, please ask a pastor or church leader.

- ***Speaking in Tongues and Other "Sign" Gifts***

NBBC is not a charismatic church in the current sense of that term. In other words, we do not practice in any church gathering, large or small, speaking in tongues, healings, and other so-called sign gifts. We believe God gave "sign" gifts to authenticate the message of Christ given through the first century apostles (2 Cor 12:12; Heb 2:1-4). The gift of tongues was used in the early church as a means of witness and instruction, and was to be practiced according to clear guidelines (1 Cor 14). It was used to share the good news of Jesus Christ with people in their native languages (Acts 2). While we do not believe the Scriptures teach that tongues is a "private prayer language", we cannot regulate what people do in private prayer. However, we will not allow the practice of tongues or other sign gifts in any of NBBC's prayer meetings, small groups, classes, or worship services.

- ***Lordship Salvation***

Lordship salvation is the belief that when one believes in Christ for salvation it is necessary that he or she acknowledges Jesus as Lord and Master of one's life in the act of receiving Him as Savior. We believe that salvation is by grace through faith (Eph 2:8-9). Faith for salvation is simple trust or confidence in Jesus Christ as our personal sin bearer; it is resting and relying on the work of Jesus Christ to provide forgiveness of sin, a right relationship with God, and eternal life. Faith is not the same as obedience or submission; it is confidence in Jesus alone for salvation. Issues of obedience to Christ, and submission to Him as Lord and Master are settled *after* one trusts in Christ for salvation and have to do with eternal rewards rather than eternal salvation.

- ***Eternal Security of a Believer in Christ***

We believe that once a person trusts in Jesus Christ for salvation there is nothing he or she can do to lose or relinquish the gift of eternal life. Many today believe that they can commit some sin or turn from God and thereby lose their salvation. We disagree. The Bible is clear that we are eternally secure as children of God and nothing whatsoever can or will ever change that status (John 10:27-30; Rom 8:38-39; Eph 1:13-14). It is the birthright of every child of God to know that his or her salvation is secure (1 John 5:11-13).