

# Chapter One



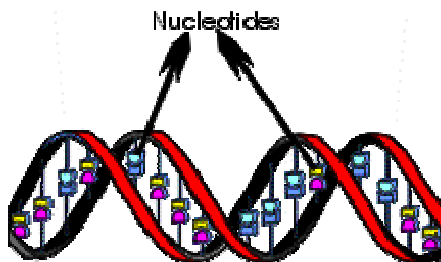
## Who am I?

*And 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. And God said, "Let the land produce living creatures according to their kinds..." - Genesis 1:11, 24 (NIV)*

*And God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth., and over all the creatures that move along the ground. " - Genesis 1:26 (NIV)*

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth and all living organisms; and, of course, that includes me. All things were created with specific purpose. No organism could exist without my creation. I live in every organism, from the complex, multi-celled humans all the way to a *virus*. (All the words written in *italic* are explained in the Glossary section at the end of this book.) I am the source of information that is passed from one generation to the next. Thus, I insure diversity and survival of the species, according to God's perfect plan.

Can you guess who I am?



Did you ever squirm in delight, or horror, when your parents' relatives or friends came up to you and said, "You look just like your mom!" Well, there is a lot of truth to that. Half of you comes from your mother; the other half comes from your father, which makes a blending! This phenomenon is called *heredity*.

My name is Gene and I am the unit of heredity, which carries information from one generation to the next.