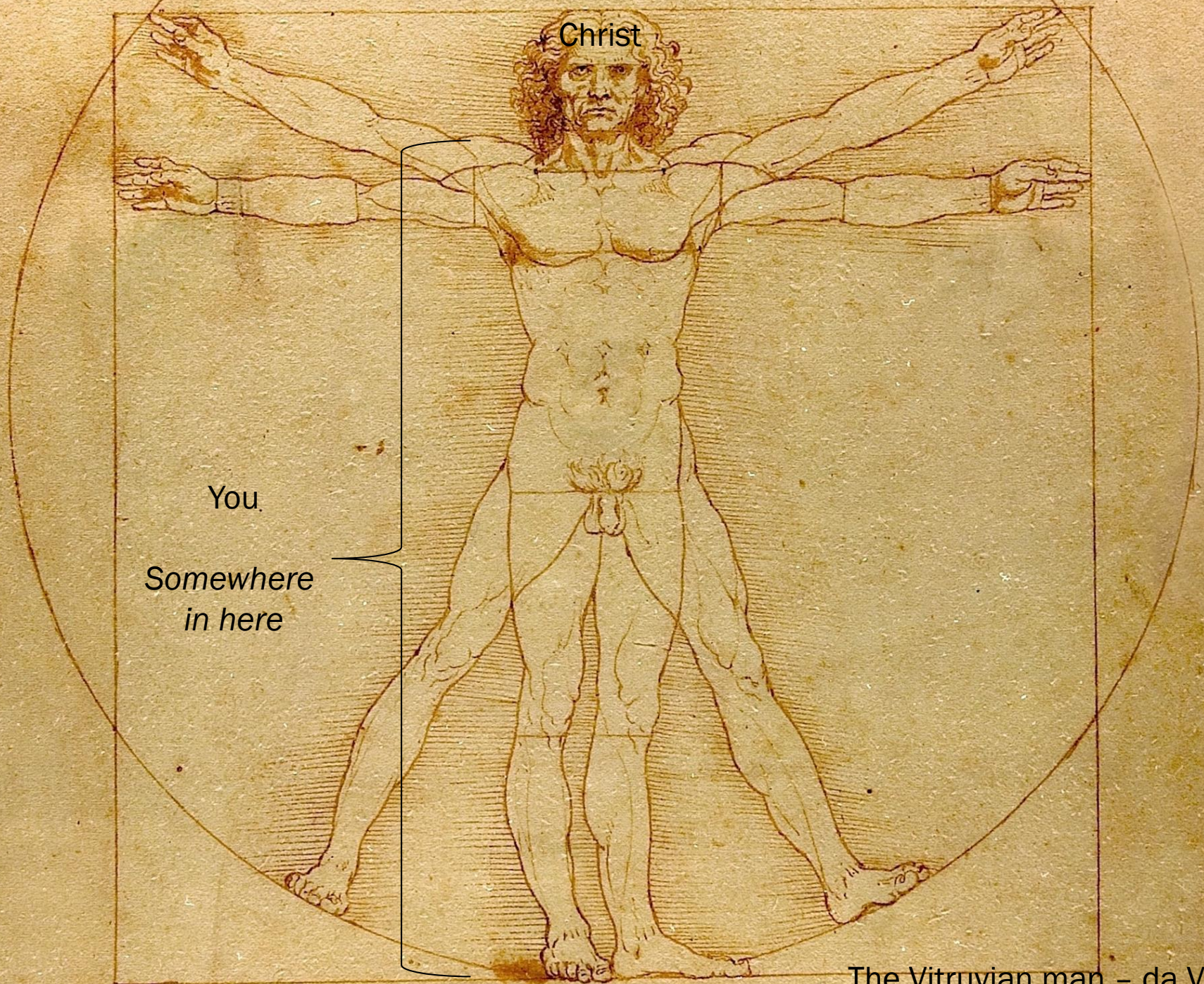


THE BODY OF CHRIST

Based on a study by Larry Groenewald



Christ

You.

Somewhere
in here

The Vitruvian man – da Vinci

WHAT IS THE BODY OF CHRIST?

- ✕ Many meanings
 - + Physical body of Jesus
 - + Local church
 - + Family of churches

WHAT IS THE BODY OF CHRIST?

- ✘ 1Cor 12:12 *For as **the body** is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that **one body**, being many, are **one body** : so also is **Christ**.*
- ✘ It is the Kingdom of God. All who have the spirit
 - + 1 Cor 12:13 *For by **one Spirit** are we all baptized into **one body**.*

WHY A BODY?

- ✗ Organism not organisation: LIFE!
- ✗ GCSE quiz: 7 characteristics of an organism
 - + 1 Nutrition.
 - + 2 Respiration.
 - + 3 Movement.
 - + 4 Excretion.
 - + 5 Growth.
 - + 6 Reproduction.
 - + 7 Sensitivity

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Spiritual LIFE

1Pe 2:5

“...you also, like living stones, are being built”

WHY A BODY?

- ✗ Structure and order

- + *“The most incomprehensible thing about the universe is that it is comprehensible”*

- Einstein, Physics and Reality 1936.

- ✗ God is God of order

- ✗ We follow his lead:

- + Allows us to work out and practice His authority to those He places below us, AND His meekness to those He places above us.

WHY A BODY?

✕ We have a job and a mission..

... a GREAT COMMISSION!

✕ Purpose!

+ (He could just use angels)

+ ALL for the GLORY of God.

KEY VERSE: 1COR 12:4-6

Now there are diversities of gifts but the same Spirit. And there are differences of administrations but the same Lord. And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which works all in all.

KEY VERSE: 1COR 12:4-6

- ✘ *Now there are diversities of **gifts** but the same Spirit.*
- ✘ *And there are differences of **administrations** but the same Lord.*
- ✘ *And there are diversities of **operations**, but it is the same God which works all in all.*

- ✘ GIFTS, ADMINISTRATIONS, OPERATIONS
- ✘ Most lists and details from:
 - + Rom 12:6-8, 1Co 12:8-10, 1Co 12:28, Eph 4:11-12

KEY VERSE: 1COR 12:4-6

- ✘ Now there are **diversities** of gifts but the same Spirit.
- ✘ And there are **differences** of administrations but the same Lord.
- ✘ And there are **diversities** of operations, but it is the same God which works all in all.
- ✘ They **feel** and **work different**, but come from the same source and work to the same will.
 - + No rivalry!

GIFTS:

- ✘ Now there are *diversities of gifts* but the same Spirit.
- ✘ 1Cor 14:1 Follow after charity, and desire *spiritual gifts*
- ✘ Greek: charisma, from charis: grace
- ✘ Grace: undeserved thing
 - + Presents!



GIFTS:

- ✖ Not hidden: 1Cor 12:1 *Now about the gifts of the Spirit, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed*

Rom 12:6-8, 1Co 12:8-10, 1Co 12:28, Eph 4:11-12

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|
| ✖ Word of wisdom | ✖ Prophecy |
| ✖ Word of knowledge | ✖ Discernment of spirit |
| ✖ Faith | ✖ Tongues/languages |
| ✖ Healing | ✖ Interpretation of
tongues |
| ✖ Powers/miracles | |

GIFTS

- ✖ Some more practical. Other more super-natural
- ✖ ALL SPIRITUAL!
- ✖ Parable of talents...
Everybody gets dealt a different hand*.



**“If I send my prayer as a text message,
will I get a faster reply?”**

*For complaints call the customer help line:
0800 – GOD – IN – HEAVEN,
Say you are calling in the name of a Mr Jesus of Nazareth.
They'll patch you straight through to management

GIFTS

- ✗ It's not about which or how many, its about development and multiplication.
- ✗ Its about using them to build up the church
- ✗ And to glorify God

- ✗ They DO NOT entitle you to authority or praise
 - + Those endowed with more “showy” gifts beware: Prophetic, miraculous, musical, intellectual abilities, etc.
 - + Key example: lucifer.
- ✗ Remember they are underserved graces
 - + Jas 1:17 *Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.*

ADMINISTRATIONS - MINISTRIES

- ✘ *there are differences of administrations but the same Lord.*
- ✘ Greek: diakonia = attending to others
- ✘ Roles, jobs, appointed offices



art. More at LeadershipJournal.net/Cartoons

"You'll be responsible for developing spiritual maturity among our young people, who are the future of this church. We also need you to drive the van."

ADMINISTRATIONS - MINISTRIES

- ✘ Apostles. Greek: “apostolos” = sent one
- ✘ Prophets
- ✘ Pastors
- ✘ Teachers
- ✘ Governments. Stewardship, deacons and elders
- ✘ Helpers Greek: “antilepsis” = to relief
- ✘ Miracle workers
- ✘ Evangelists

ADMINISTRATIONS - MINISTRIES

- ✖ 1Co 12:29-31 *Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret?*
- ✖ Eph 4:11-12 *And truly He gave **some** to be...*
- ✖ *NOT all are apostles. NOT all are prophets. NOT all are teachers. NOT all work miracles. NOT all have gifts of healing. NOT all speak in tongues. NOT all interpret.*

ADMINISTRATIONS – MINISTRIES

- ✗ no one individual can possess all of the gifts/ministries
 - + all members/people are needed
 - + force people to come together regularly to get nourishment from one another
- ✗ Yet this negative answer is also meant to highlight that which is indeed shared by all...

OPERATIONS

- ✘ Greek: Energema =
 - + Effect operation
 - + That which allows the accomplishment of another
 - + The capacity to do work

- ✘ Appear only twice in the whole of scripture:
 - + 1Cor 12:6 ... *there are diversities of **operations**.*
 - + 1Cor 12:10 ... *the **working** of miracles*

OPERATIONS

- ✖ It is the higher way:
- ✖ 1Cor 12:31 *covet earnestly the best gifts: and yet I will show you the most excellent way.*
- ✖ 1Cor 13:13 *now these three remain:*
 - ✖ *Faith*
 - ✖ *Hope*
 - ✖ *Love*
- + *...and the greatest of these is love.*
 - ✖ Unlike human faith and hope, love is a property of the divine.
1 John 4:8 “...God IS love”

OPERATIONS

- ✘ No matter how “useful”, a **foreign** object in the body will only cause harm.
- ✘ Gifts and ministries without the operations not only harm the body.. But also do not glorify God:
 - + 1Sam 15:22 Does the LORD delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the LORD? To obey is better than sacrifice

CONCLUSION

- ✖ Need to be sure that we do belong to the body.
 - + Luke 13:27-28 *Then you will say, 'We ate and drank with you, and you taught in our streets.' And he will answer, 'I tell you, I do not know where you are from. **Depart from me, all you evildoers.**'*

CONCLUSION

✕ Identity:

- + 1Jn 5:2-3 *By this we know that we **love** the children of God, when we **love** God, and keep his commandments. For this is the **love** of God, that we keep his commandments.*
- + John 13:35 *By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you **love** one another.*
- + 1Cor 12:25 *...there should be **no schism** in the body; but that the members should have the same **care** one for another.*

PRACTICALITIES

- ✖ What about me?
 - + What are my gifts?
 - + What is my ministry?
 - + Is God “operating” faith, hope and love in me?

- ✖ Do you love?
- ✖ Do you desire to serve?
- ✖ Has God revealed to you in part a calling?
- ✖ Has a group of ministers noticed an untapped/partly developing gift and prayed laying hands on you?
 - + 1Ti 4:14 *Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery.*

PRACTICALITIES

✘ Discipleship!!

- + Jesus showed us this way. Eating and sharing his everyday with an intimate group.

✘ Submit to authority (its not easy).

- + Allows us to work out and practice His authority to those He places below us, AND His meekness to those He places above us.

- + Allows those God has placed over you to grow

- + Allow you to grow if God places people below you

✘ Accountability: Ask the Holy Spirit for a Spirit-filled brother to disciple you.

PRACTICALITIES

- ✗ Fruits of discipleship
- ✗ LOVE (attribute of God, never a bad thing)
- ✗ Discovery of gifts
- ✗ Training and exercising of the gifts from a mature mentor
- ✗ Spiritual cover:
 - + at all levels, culminating in the church leadership:
 - + Hebrews 13:17 *Have confidence in your leaders and **submit to their authority**, because they keep **watch over you** as those who must **give account**.*

PRACTICALITIES

- ✗ Our church:
 - + Music
 - + Teaching
 - ✗ Language
 - ✗ New Christians
 - ✗ Children
 - + Finances
 - + Prophecy
 - + Evangelism
 - + ...



"The finance committee says we need to stop building bridges to the community and start building toll roads."

THANK YOU
