

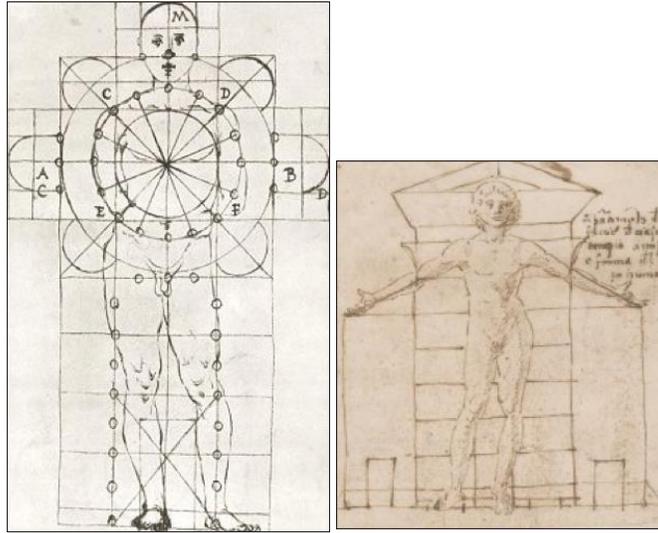
PREVIOUSLY...

- The Spiritual Status of Israel and the Gentiles | Romans 11:16-24
- The Mystery | Romans 11:25-27
- Paul's Summary Statement on Israel Today | Romans 11:28-32
- The Doxology for God's Work with Israel | Romans 11:33-36

OUR RESPONSE TO THE AGE OF GRACE | ROMANS 12:1-2

- Verse 1 –
 - **Beseech** is that familiar word, παρακαλέω [parakaleo], used of both the work of the Spirit and the "encouraging provocation" of anyone. This particular encouragement is given in light of the fact that God has graciously offered the gift of grace in this age.
 - The encouragement is given **by the mercies of God**, or, more literally, *through* the mercies of God.
 - The encouragement is **that ye present your bodies**.
 - Other than the Catholic church, Christians have failed to develop a "doctrine of the physical body."
 - Such a doctrine would include:
 - What is the pre-body state of a human being?
 - Is the human body and soul, or soul and spirit?
 - What is the post-body future of a human body?
 - Is the physical body good, evil, or just "necessary?"
 - Leonardo da Vinci's famous "Vitruvian Man" (and like works of other artists) are at attempt to show the relationship between the human body, the consistent form of Temples through history, and the universe itself. Da Vinci said that the body was "a microcosm of the universe."
 - *"Leonardo drew the plans for the first armored car in 1485! He also designed the cannon, a machine gun, gliders, turnspit for roasting meat, canal system to irrigate fields and transport goods in Milan, invented the parachute, a movable bridge for the Duke of Milan, various ladders for storming and climbing castle walls, a machine to make concave mirrors, a pump for well water, made maps of Europe, made the first accurate drawings of the human anatomy, designed a revolving stage for plays and pageants, created an inflatable tube so people could float in the water, invented the scissors, invented the bicycle 300 years before it appeared on the road, and in his spare time painted some of the most beautiful paintings the world has ever known! All in a single lifetime!"*¹
 - The following works of Francesco di Giorgio show the "microcosm" of man as it relates to worship.

¹ <https://answersingenesis.org/creation-scientists/profiles/leonardo-da-vinci/>



- The body as a sacrifice was to be-
 - **Living.** Paul encouraged that the body be presented as a **living sacrifice**, which is something of an oxymoron, since **sacrifice** is θυσία [thysia], a form of *thyo*, which is *to kill*.
 - **Holy.** That is, set apart. Treated with honor and respect.
 - **Acceptable unto God.** Literally, "well-pleasing."
- To present the body in this manner is **your reasonable service**.
 - The word for **service** is λατρεία [latreia], a word used exclusively for the service of worship.
 - The word for **reasonable** is λογικός [logikos], which is *rational, logical, sensible*.
 - Since Christ presented His body as a sacrifice of death, presenting our bodies as a **living sacrifice, holy, acceptable** is the least we can do. It is most **reasonable**.
- Verse 2 –
 - Paul further beseeches (from v. 1) that we **be not conformed** but rather **transformed**.
 - **Conformed** is συσχηματίζω [syschematizo], literally, *with the shematic of this world*. If indeed the body is a *microcosm of the universe* (as per Vitruvius / da Vinci), then Paul is clearly making a comparison beyond the body to the **mind**. When he refers to **this world**, he refers to αἰών [eon], a reference to *this age*, and not the physical universe.
 - The word **transformed** is μεταμορφώω [metamorphoo], a *change of form*. This change takes place **by the renewing of your mind**. The Greek *kainos* is a *new season*, and **renewing** is ἀνακαίνωσις [anakainosis], literally *again new*. Even though the Christian is a **new creature** (2 Cor. 5:17) he or she must continually renew the mind.
 - Paul does not give instructions about how the mind is renewed, so the believer must find their own method, within the bounds of Scripture. While a *recipe of renewal* might be helpful, it should always be viewed as a suggestion of a fellow pilgrim. Note that preachers are notorious for making "Biblical" instruction where the Bible has none.
 - The purpose of the renewal is **that ye may prove the will of God**. The Greek word for **prove** is translated **discern** in Luke 12:56 and **examine** in 1 Corinthians 11:28. How can a person know the will of God? It starts with having a renewed mind!