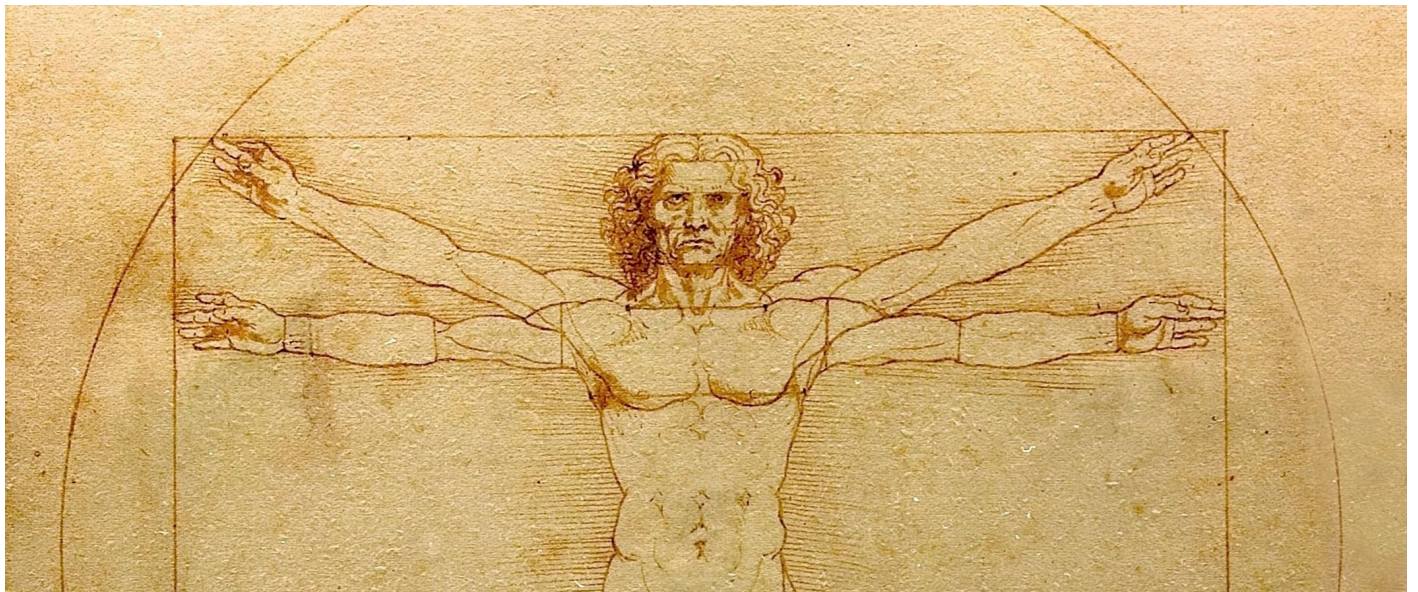


# Acts 15 & 1 Corinthians 12: The Church as Body

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## The Big Idea

Paul's use of the human body is an insightful innovation that empowers us to gain a broader vision of what the church is, how it functions, and our role as individuals who belong to the church (local and universal).



In the Hebrew tradition, what is the sign of life? Scripturally (Acts and 1 Corinthians) What is the sign of life in the church? What signs of life do you see in the church (local and universal)?

According to Acts, the early church struggled with the relations of her diverse members (Acts 15). How did the early church resolve to move forward? How did the church in Corinth struggle to move forward—what were the issues that were causing limb removal and dismemberment? What issues continue to dismember the church today? How do we re-member the church?

Reflecting on your own gifts, talents and passions, how do you see your role serving the larger body that is the church?

Paul drops a hint of “a more excellent way” at the end of the reading from 1 Corinthians 12—what is the more excellent way?