

Body Parts
Making Sure That We Honor God with All of Us



Body Parts

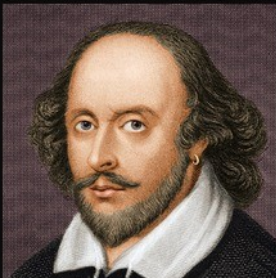
- *Our Ears*
- *Our Eyes (part 1)*
- *Our Tongues*
- *Our Hands*
- *Our Feet*
- *Our Hearts*



Body Parts

Sword Drill #1

- Where in the Bible does it say “The eyes are the window to your soul”?
- Okay, that's a bit of a trick question, since it *never* says that in the Bible
 - It's been attributed to William Shakespeare (and what did he *mean* by it?)



The Eyes are the window to your soul

~ William Shakespeare



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Leonardo da Vinci



The eye, the window of the soul, is the chief means whereby the understanding can most fully and abundantly appreciate the infinite works of Nature.

AZ QUOTES



Body Parts

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 - It's been attributed to William Shakespeare though Leonardo Da Vinci said it before him though Hildegard of Bingen said it before him (what do you think she meant by it?)



Eyes are the windows of the soul.
As the sun is the light of the day,
so the soul is the light of the
awakened body. As the moon is
the light of the night, so is the soul
the light of the sleeping body.

~ Hildegard of Bingen



Body Parts

Sword Drill #1

- Where in the Bible does it say “The eyes are the window to your soul”?
 - Okay, that's a bit of a trick question, since it *never* says that in the Bible
 - It's been attributed to William Shakespeare though Leonardo Da Vinci said it before him though Hildegard of Bingen said it before him though Cicero said something a lot like it earlier (and what does it seem that he meant by it?)



The face is a picture of the mind
as the eyes are its interpreter.

~ Cicero



Body Parts

Sword Drill #1

- Where in the Bible does it say “The eyes are the window to your soul”?
 - Okay, that's a bit of a trick question, since it *never* says that in the Bible
 - The closest thing in the Bible is in Luke 11:34
“Your eye is the *lamp* of your *body*...”
 - That *doesn't* mean Shakespeare's “I can see into your soul by looking into your eyes” or Da Vinci's “You drink in Nature first and foremost by looking at it with your eyes” or Hildegard's... well... whatever it was that Hildegard of Bingen was trying to get at... or even Cicero's “Your eyes interpret what other people's faces are telling you”



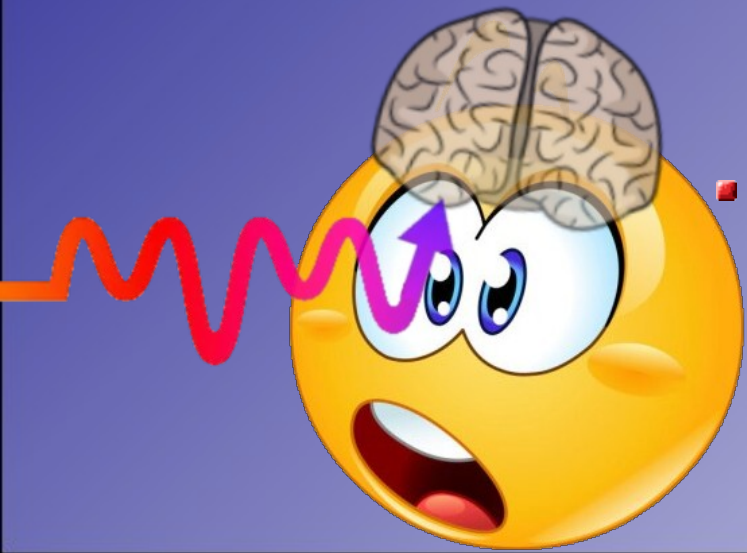
Our Eyes

- Eyes 101
 - On some levels, each of those other quotes was true (in their own ways)
 - Leonardo was right that we process Nature through the data coming into our brains through our eyes and Cicero was right that our visual processes are always interpreting what we see
 - It's actually a lot like the "hearing" / "listening" thing but maybe let's call it "seeing" / "perceiving" this time
 - You see light coming through your eyes' irises but then it's processed several different ways
 - First off, you actually see things upside-down and backwards, due to the curvature of your retinas
(think about it like when you look at your reflection in the concave inside of a spoon)



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 - It's actually a lot like the "hearing" / "listening" thing but maybe let's call it "seeing" / "perceiving" this time
 - You see light coming through your eyes' irises but then it's processed several different ways
 - First off, you actually see things upside-down and backwards, due to the curvature of your retinas but then your brain just automatically "fixes" all of that so that the images make more sense to you
 - But that's not the *only* way your brain "fixes" what you're seeing...



Our Eyes

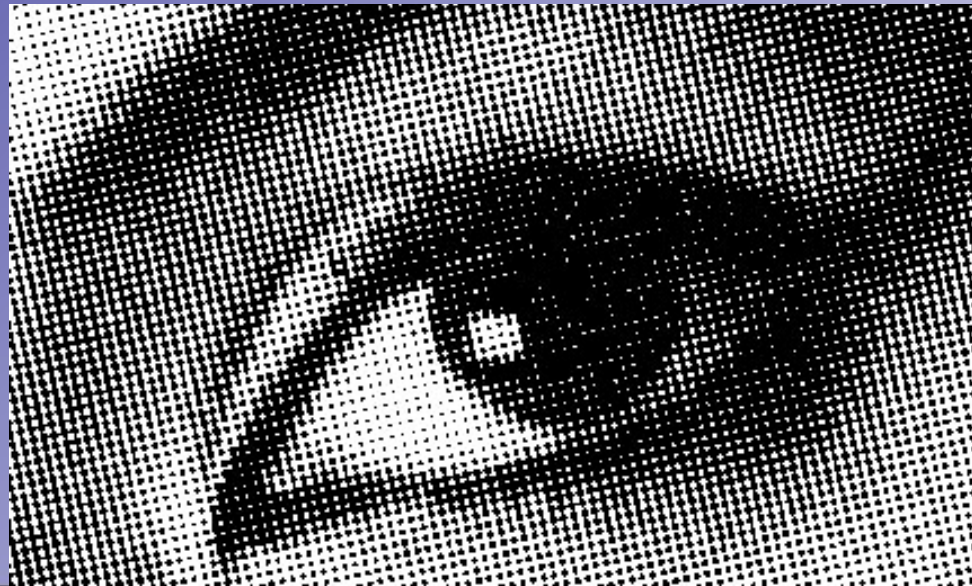


Funky little teaching moment...

- Roughly how many shades of gray can you make out in this picture?



- Okay, that's another “trick” question, because there are no “shades of gray” in that picture
 - It's what printers call a “halftone” (made up of tiny black blobs of ink on white background) that *fools* your eyes into *thinking* that they see gradations



Our Eyes



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 - The point is that your eyes (and your brain) blend the blobs together to create a more easily recognizable pattern that can be identified and perceived not as clumps of ink blobs, but as a woman's eye (i.e.; you “see” blobs, but you “perceive” an eye)

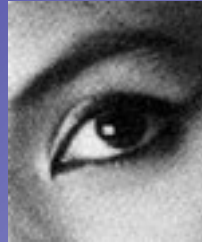


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 - Now, if you do that with something this simple, then what *else* do your eyes (and brain) simplify and create patterns for in order to make your “perceptions” easier for you to deal with?

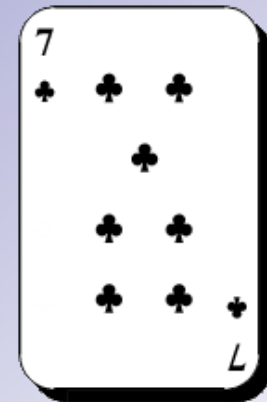
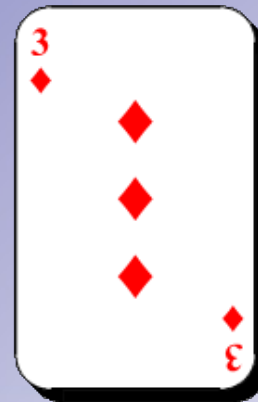
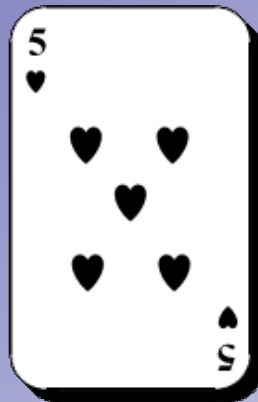
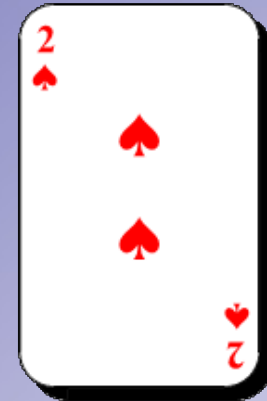
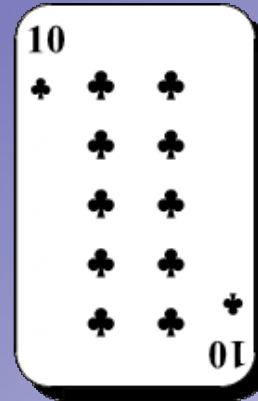
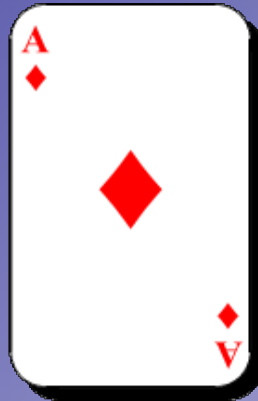


Our Eyes



Funky little teaching moment...

- Roughly how many shades of gray can you make out in this picture?
- Please call out these playing cards as quickly as possible (fastest callers get a prize):



Our Eyes

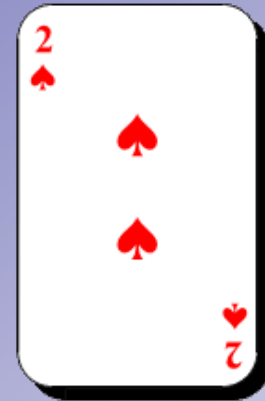


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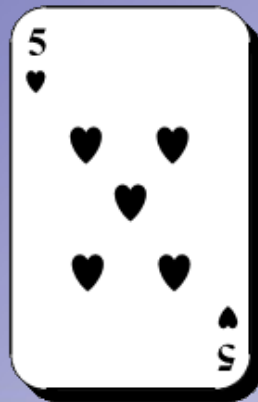
▪ Um...

- What's wrong with these cards?
- Your brain desperately wants to place them in an easily identifiable box, but neither of these wants to fit inside an easily identifiable box
- So it generates what we call “cognitive dissonance”—and the human mind *hates* that



(in fact, your brain will do just about *anything* to reduce cognitive dissonance—including *lie* to you)

(when they did this experiment in 1949, people straight-up swore that they had seen a two of hearts or a five of spades the first time through—they even accused the researchers of maliciously changing the cards on them)



Our Eyes

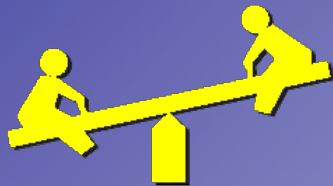
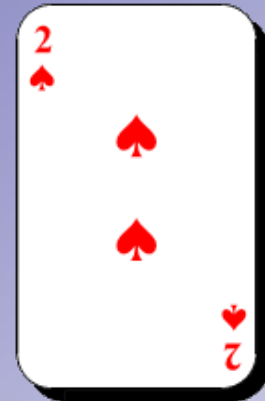


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- Your brain will begin to do a kind of “see-saw” of the dissonant details, deciding which elements to prioritize and which to de-prioritize in order to make it all make more sense to you

“Yes, it's a red spade, but the [color, shape] is really the most relevant thing here...”

“Yes, he did this crazy thing... but he's such a good President otherwise...”



Our Eyes

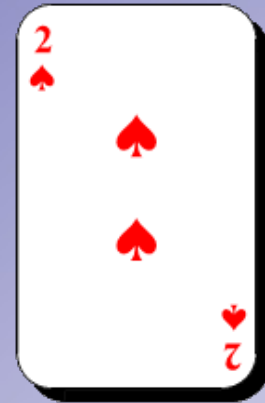


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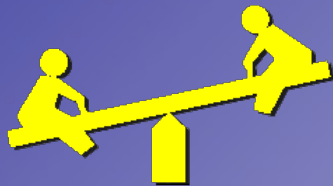
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- So it generates what we call “cognitive dissonance”—and the human mind *hates* that
- Your brain will begin to do a kind of “see-saw” of the dissonant details, deciding which elements to prioritize and which to de-prioritize in order to make it all make more sense to you
- FYI: It's been argued that all persuasion is *ultimately* performed by *generating* and then *alleviating* cognitive dissonance
 - So what does that suggest?

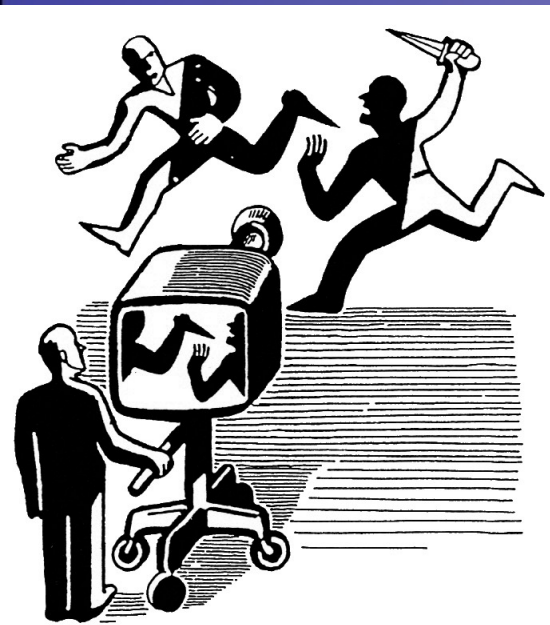


Our Eyes



Funky little teaching moment...

- Roughly how many shades of gray can you make out in this picture?
- Please call out these playing cards as quickly as possible (fastest callers get a prize)
- **We also package what we see into easily digestible packets of information**
 - We ignore the parts around the periphery which we assume aren't going to be relevant to the picture
 - In fact, there's an argument that *that's* what picture frames are all about—to create a clearer demarcation for your brain about what you're supposed to look at—and thus, what it's safe and appropriate for you to *exclude* from your perceptions
 - So how might *that* mess you up sometimes?

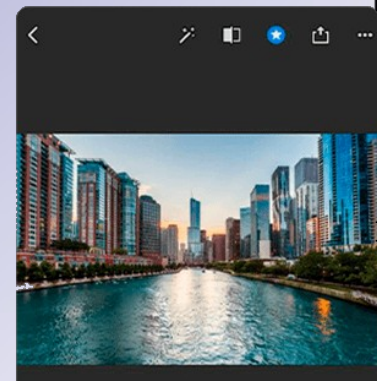
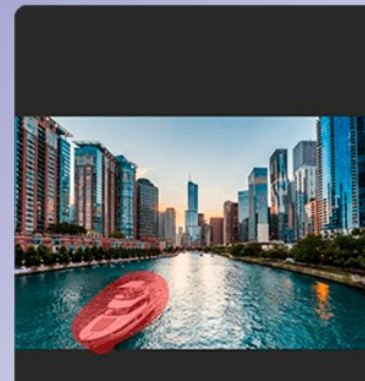
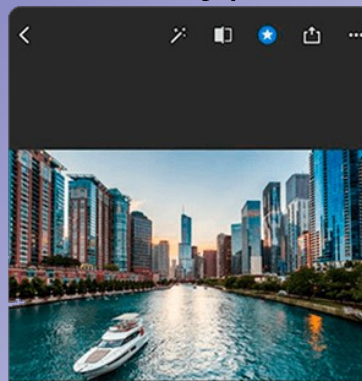
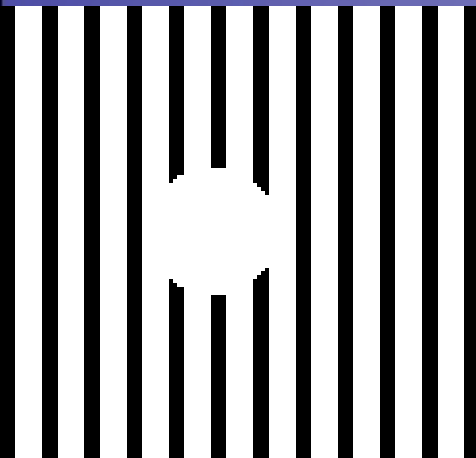


Our Eyes



Funky little teaching moment...

- Roughly how many shades of gray can you make out in this picture?
- Please call out these playing cards as quickly as possible (fastest callers get a prize)
- We also package what we see into easily digestible packets of information
- The flip-side of that is that your eyes also each have a built-in blind spot where your blood vessels and optic nerves attach—but your brain fills in the spot constantly to make you *think* it doesn't exist
 - You can consider that cool (like those new cameras that can just crop bits out of your photos on the fly)



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 - You can consider that cool, but the fact is that your brain is *lying* to you every second of every day, making you *think* that you're seeing a complete picture when the **I**truth is that you're only *falsely perceiving* that you are...
 - When might *that* be a problem, conceptually?

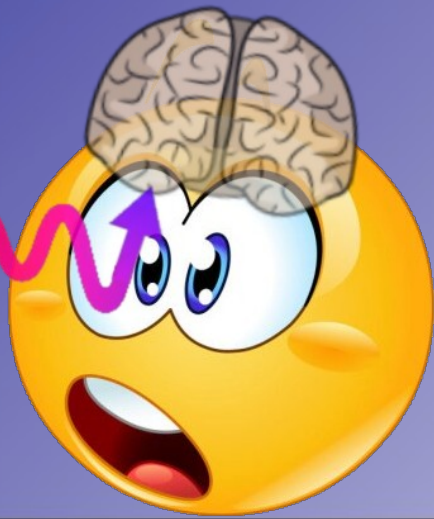


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- The flip-side of that is that your eyes also each have a built-in blind spot where your blood vessels and optic nerves attach—but your brain fills in the spot constantly to make you think it doesn't exist
- **What's the point of all of this?**
 - That between smoothing the patterns into what we'd prefer to see, putting things into easier boxes to perceive, chopping out the bits that we thought were just superfluous, and filling in the bits that we only *thought* that we actually saw, “seeing” and “perceiving” aren't as cut-and-dry as we *usually think* that they are (and all of it is being done *unconsciously* without you even being aware that you're doing it)



Our Eyes

- Eyes 101
 - Think about all of that as we think about some Bible passages and cross-apply what we've discussed
 - Remember what we read last week about Jesus talking about making known what's been hidden?
 - Please read what Jesus says in Luke 11:33
 - In the context of last week's explanation of the parable of the sower, seed, and soils, what "light" should we be making sure that people can see? (and how does that parallel Old Testament passages such as Psalm 19:8?)



Our Eyes

- Eyes 101

- Think about all of that as we think about some Bible passages and cross-apply what we've discussed

- Remember what we read last week about Jesus talking about making known what's been hidden?

- Please read what Jesus says in Luke 11:33

- Please read Luke 11:34-36

- There are different ways to translate this—

- “When your eyes are **good**, your whole body also is full of light.”

- “When your eyes are **single...**”

- “When your eyes are **clear...**”

- “When your eyes are **whole...**”

- “When your eyes are **unified...**”

(in fact, the base word for this use [ἀπλοῦς or *haploûs*] is also the base word for “**plaited**” or “**braided**”)

- So what is this word *getting* at?



Our Eyes

- Eyes 101
 - Think about all of that as we think about some Bible passages and cross-apply what we've discussed
 - Remember what we read last week about Jesus talking about making known what's been hidden?
 - Please read what Jesus says in Luke 11:33
 - Please read Luke 11:34-36
 - There are different ways to translate this, so what do you think Jesus is getting at by saying, "When your eyes are good, your whole body also is full of light" here?
 - So in what way(s) are your eyes the "lamp" of your body here?
 - What happens if your eyes aren't drinking in the light of the lamp? (literally or spiritually)



Our Eyes

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- So in what way(s) are your eyes the "lamp" of your body here?
 - What happens if your eyes aren't drinking in the light of the lamp?
 - When we're walking in darkness, there are two logical reasons:
 - 1) We're not near a light source
 - 2) We're blind—we are either unable or unwilling to see the light source
 - So which of these is Jesus talking about?



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- So in what way(s) are your eyes the "lamp" of your body here?
- What exactly is Jesus warning us about in vs. 35?
 - How is there light *already within us* that shouldn't go dark?
 - So does that mean that we ourselves could become lamps to others, as we shine (or reflect) that light?
 - What "perceptions" or paradigms might all of this require us to reconsider?



Our Eyes

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 - Remember what we read last week about Jesus talking about making known what's been hidden?
 - Please read what Jesus says in Luke 11:33
 - Please read Luke 11:34-36
 - Next week, we'll unpack more Biblical passages about our eyes, but let's end today with another quote from Leonardo
 - How is this relevant to what we're talking about?
 - What does it suggest about how we should think about what we should do with our eyes?

Leonardo da Vinci



There are three classifications of people. Those who see, those who see when they are shown, and those who do not see.

AZ QUOTES

