

A Unity That Praises Him

By Natalie Madsen

“How blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD his God, Who made heaven and earth, the sea and all that is in them; Who keeps faith forever....”
(Psalm 146:5-6 NASB)

Leonardo of Pisa was born in Italy during the late 1100s. His reputation as a gifted mathematician soared when he discovered an intricate numbering sequence that is still awing scientists to this day. While studying rabbits, Leonardo of Pisa found that the little creatures multiplied in number from one to thirteen in seven months – not randomly but in a distinct pattern. Leonardo, who was nicknamed Fibonacci, had unearthed the “Fibonacci number sequence.”

The Fibonacci sequence is a pattern of numbers that begins with the number 1. The next numbers are determined by adding the previous two together. Thus, the sequence goes as such: 1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13, 21, 34, and on. Leonardo’s rabbits multiplied in this exact pattern.

Throughout the Middle Ages and down through the years, artists such as Leonardo de Vinci grabbed a hold of the Fibonacci sequence and used it in their art. Why? When two consequential numbers in the Fibonacci sequence are used for the length and width of a rectangle, that forms a shape that is equal, perfect, and beautiful to the human eye. A 5 x 8 rectangle, then, is called a Golden Rectangle. Using the same concept, a perfect Golden Spiral can be created by also using numbers in the Fibonacci sequence. On de Vinci’s painting of *The Last Supper*, the far wall behind the image of Christ is a Golden Rectangle.

The Fibonacci sequence is an example of the beauty and harmony in the Lord’s creation. Leonardo did not find the only occurrence of this perfect number sequence. On the contrary, this pattern is found throughout nature. The two spirals of seeds on a sunflower, for instance, both have consecutive Fibonacci numbers of seeds on each spiral – 34 and 55 seeds, for instance. Pinecones are formed in a perfect arrangement of seeds, as well, with consecutive Fibonacci numbers. Fruit and the family trees of some insects are also framed around the Fibonacci sequence. We find flowers whose number of petals aligns with the pattern, as well, and even leaves and their positions on plants’ stems have been said to have the same numerical pattern.

Leonardo of Pisa merely discovered a pattern that was already beautifully woven through God’s creation. The artists who used the pattern to make beautiful works of art with equal and beautiful shapes were merely copying what the Creator of the Universe had already designed. Each sequence of numbers found through nature is almost like a fingerprint of the Almighty – His Wisdom and Beauty is praised through the harmony and unity of His Creation.

Romans 1:20 says, *“For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.”* Through God’s creation, we see fingerprints of His designing Hands, and we see His Majesty in what He created. His creation and every pattern and harmony within testifies to His nature. The atheist may declare his entire life that he *knows* there is no God, but Scripture tells us he does know God exists...that he is “without excuse.” Creation cries out in praise of its Creator – the Creator who is wise and a God of order, harmony, and incredible unity. Any disorder we see around us – any cacophony, any disunity – proceeds from sin’s effect upon nature, the Earth, and man. In nature, we see death and decay, disease, and animals hunting and feasting on each other’s life to survive. The Earth rends itself with quakes, weather

risers to fell forests, and the ocean swells to swallow coasts. Among men, there is deception, betrayal, and violence. Everywhere we see sin's stain on the beautiful order of God's perfect creation that is the foundation of our existence. For those who follow God, they must seek His order, harmony, and unity in the chaos of the world that surrounds them. First Corinthians 14:33 says, *"For God is not a God of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints."* Here, Paul is saying that the Church is God's representation on Earth; therefore, it cannot be a place of division and disunity if it is truly His. The Lord desires for the Body of Christ to have unity and order. How can we grow in Him and in the likeness of Him if we live in disharmony and disorder?

In the first chapter of 1 Corinthians (vs. 10-13), Paul wrote, *"Now I exhort you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all agree and that there may be no divisions among you, but that you be made complete in the same mind and in the same judgment. For I have been informed concerning you, my brethren, by Chloe's people, that there are quarrels among you. Now I mean this, that each one of you is saying, 'I am of Paul,' and 'I of Apollos,' and 'I of Cephas,' and 'I of Christ.' Has Christ been divided? Paul was not crucified for you, was he? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?"* We must be careful not to fall into the trap of disharmony. We have a solid truth: the Lord cannot be divided. We, fallible human beings, can and often do quarrel over differences in opinion and harbor grudges or judgment. But if we are to follow *Christ's* example, and if we are to seek after walking in His likeness, we must obey His call for the Body of Believers to be in unity with each other.

In John 17:20-24, Jesus prayed, *"I do not ask on behalf of these alone, but for those also who believe in Me through their word; that they may all be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me. The glory which You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one, just as We are one; I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, so that the world may know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as You have loved Me. Father, I desire that they also, whom You have given Me, be with Me where I am, so that they may see My glory which You have given Me, for You loved Me before the foundation of the world."*

If we are to walk in unity with Christ, we, the Body of Christ, cannot have strife among us. The Lord God, our God of unity and order, created each person of the Body of Christ as carefully as He fashioned each of our own human bodies: *"For the body is not one member, but many. If the foot says, 'Because I am not a hand, I am not a part of the body,' it is not for this reason any the less a part of the body. And if the ear says, 'Because I am not an eye, I am not a part of the body,' it is not for this reason any the less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? But now God has placed the members, each of them, in the body, just as He desired"* (1 Corinthians 12:14-18).

Our human nature – our tendency to live in disagreement or in division from each other – fights against the call to live in unity, as our Lord commands. We cannot obey both – we must either reside in strife with our brothers, or we must walk in unity with the Body of Believers as we follow Christ. But thanks be to God that He does not change! That our fickleness of character does not change the fact that He is forever the same! Our God, a God of Wisdom and Truth, who cannot change, is a God of unity, holiness, and perfection. Oh, may we delight in walking after *HIS* unity! Even though sin may stain His Creation, His Majesty still was, is, and will be to come! As every bit of our world is knit together with His intricate Love and Design, how more so should His precious creation of man be striving to glorify *Him* while walking in His

example.

*“But You, O LORD, abide forever, and Your name to all generations....Of old you founded the earth, and the heavens are the work of Your hands.
Even they will perish, but You endure; and all of them will wear out like a garment; like clothing You will change them and they will be changed.
But You are the same, and Your years will not come to an end.
The children of Your servants will continue, and their descendants will be established before You.”*
(Psalm 102:12, 25-28)

Information on Leonardo of Pisa from <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fibonacci> and http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fibonacci_number