

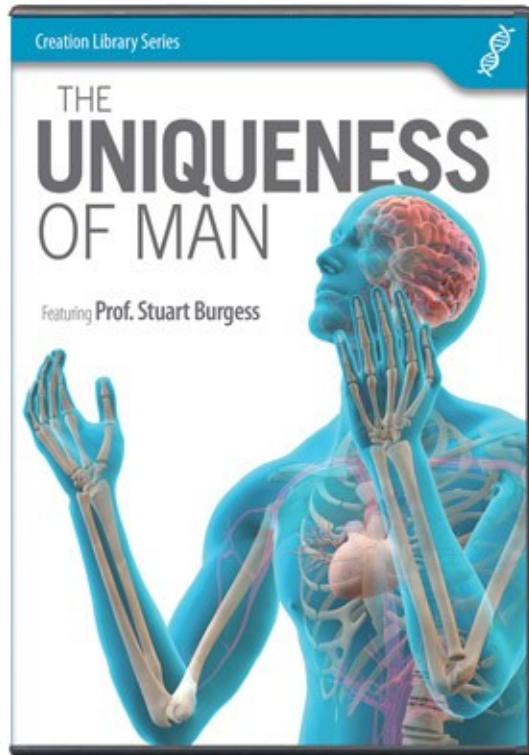
## The Wonder of it All: The Human Body By Mark Jurkovich

**O**ur own body is truly a marvel of God's loving design. This fact is clearly drawn out in the DVD that was shown at the recent ARKy meeting on March 14<sup>th</sup>. So today's article will also double as a review of the DVD "The Uniqueness of Man", Featuring Prof. Stuart Burgess; part of the Answers in Genesis Creation Library Series, c2014.

Dr. Burgess started out by declaring "man is a glorious being and brilliantly designed". He pointed out that we are overdesigned (in a positive sense), comparing the human body to a luxury sports car that is designed to go faster than it needs to, is more comfortable than needed, and more beautiful than needed. And in comparison to apes, we are not a mere 5% or even 2% different as some evolutionists claim, but in many respects, we are 100% different from apes. The rest of the video went over 10 unique design features of humans, several of which were pointed out as being 100% different from apes. I will highlight several of these unique design features.

Number one on the list of unique design features is our upright stature. Did you know we are the only mammal that walks upright? And that ability requires unique features literally from head to toe.

- Vertical balance (the vertical one of the 3 canals in the inner ear is uniquely enlarged for upright balance)
- Flat face (so we can see the ground in front of us while walking upright)
- Upright neck joint (enters the skull from underneath; not so in apes)
- S shaped spine (actually better for suspension and cushioning in jumps for example)
- Upright hips, angled femurs, upright knees and long legs all enable upright standing and walking



- Arched feet (gives us 3 points of contacts for best stability; apes cannot stand on one leg)
- Strong big toe (further stability and helps enable standing on front of feet and pushing off from front of feet)

All these unique features for upright posture frees up our hands for other uses. So it makes sense that our hands are also a marvel of unique design.

- Our ability to make a pinch grip with our thumb and any of our fingers, and make combined grips
- We have full range of motion from flat hand to clenched fist; apes only have a curve grip
- We have fine muscle control for precise movement

### **Backbone**

An ape's backbone has a single gentle curve, a human backbone is 'S' shaped. This enables the weight to be carried nearly directly above the hip joints.

### **Spine**

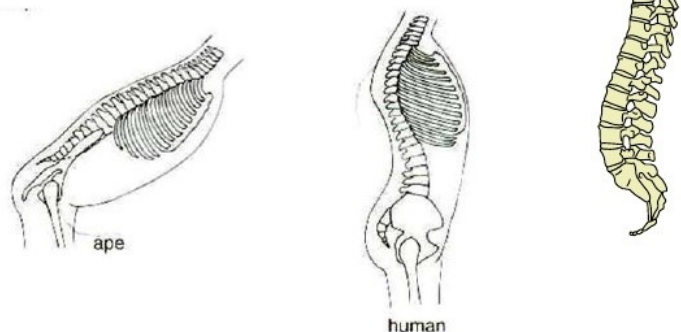


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- Fine touch sensors on fingertips
- Precise design of muscles and ligaments for all these abilities listed above
- 25% of our brain's motor cortex is dedicated to muscles in the hand!

An example of overdesign that Dr. Burgess points out is our unique ability to create, sing and perform music. It has no evolutionary benefit. The hand's features enable musicians to play with speed, precision and feeling.

One of the more fun unique designs he points out is our ability for unique facial expressions. Studies say we can make 10,000 different facial expressions! He demonstrates it with a number of great expressions from his son at age 5.



- Facial expressions communicate feelings quickly and enhance other forms of communication
- We have around 50 facial muscles, half of which are dedicated to facial expression. Apes have half that many muscles, none of which are dedicated for facial expression
- Another 25% of our brain's motor cortex is dedicated to facial muscles!
- Even the fact that you can see the whites of our eyes is unique; which for example, enables making contact from across a crowded room.

The other unique features of man given by Prof. Burgess are:

- Unique fine skin. We are not naked apes; we have much more control over keeping cool
- Unique language & speech. Lips, tongue and larynx all specialized to enable our wide range of sound production
- Unique childhood. Longer than any other mammal; time to develop language, etc.
- Unique marriage and reproduction
- Unique brain. Capacity far exceeds that of any animal.
- Unique beauty of human form
- Unique soul. Awareness of self, abstract and rational thought, appreciation of beauty

(animals do not stop to enjoy a sunset)

The more we learn about our marvelous human body the more we can join with the Psalmist in proclaiming "I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvelous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well." (Psalm 139:14, KJV)

Related articles by StewartBurgess:

<https://creation.com/overdesign-in-humans-and-facial-expressions>

<https://creation.com/critical-characteristics-and-the-irreducible-knee-joint>