

# 1 Corinthians 12:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Nay, much more those members of the body, which seem to be more feeble, are necessary:

## Analysis

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**Nay, much more those members of the body, which seem to be more feeble, are necessary**—Polla mallon ta dokounta melē tou sōmatos asthenestera hyparchein anankaia estin—Paul inverts worldly evaluation: **which seem** (ta dokounta) to be weaker are actually **necessary** (anankaia, indispensable, essential). Asthenestera ("weaker, feebler") describes internal organs—heart, lungs, stomach—less visible, less celebrated than hands/eyes, yet absolutely vital. You can survive losing a hand; you cannot survive losing your heart.

**Nay, much more** (polla mallon) strengthens the reversal: not only are weaker members necessary, they are much more necessary. Applied to church gifts: the widow's prayer ministry, the janitor's facility care, the quiet encourager's notes—these "feeble" (by worldly standards) contributions are indispensable to body-life. The spectacular public gifts (preaching, prophecy) depend utterly on foundational, hidden gifts (prayer, service, giving). Paul elevates the marginalized, affirming their essential dignity.

## Historical Context

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Corinthian honor-culture valued public recognition and visible achievement. Paul subverts this, insisting God values what humans overlook—the hidden acts of service, the quiet faithfulness, the unglamorous necessities that sustain body-life.

## Related Passages

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**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

## Study Questions

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1. What 'feeble' gifts or members in your church do you tend to overlook as less necessary?
2. How can churches honor and affirm the 'weaker' members who lack public visibility?
3. Why might God design the body so that 'weaker' members are actually more necessary?

## Interlinear Text

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ἀλλὰ πολλῷ μᾶλλον τὰ δοκοῦντα μέλη τοῦ  
Nay much more G3588 which seem those members G3588  
G235 G4183 G3123 G1380 G3196

σώματος ἀσθενέστερα ὑπάρχειν ἀναγκαῖά ἔστιν  
of the body more feeble to be necessary are  
G4983 G772 G5225 G316 G2076

## Additional Cross-References

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**Proverbs 14:28** (Parallel theme): In the multitude of people is the king's honour: but in the want of people is the destruction of the prince.