

# 1 Corinthians 12:24

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For our comely parts have no need: but God hath tempered the body together, having given more abundant honour to that part which lacked:

## Analysis

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**For our comely parts have no need: but God hath tempered the body together**—Ta gar euschēmona hēmōn ou chreian echei ("our presentable parts have no need")—hands, face, eyes need no extra covering or honor; they're naturally presentable. God's design compensates: prominent members need less care; hidden members need more. **God hath tempered the body together** (ho theos synekerasen to sōma)—synekerasen (from synkerannymi) means "mixed together, blended, composed" like ingredients in a recipe. God is the divine chef who blended diverse members into one harmonious organism.

**Having given more abundant honour to that part which lacked**—God's intentional design compensates for deficiency, ensuring no member is neglected or devalued. The Creator's wisdom balances the body so weaker/hidden/uncomely parts receive honor offsetting their apparent disadvantages. This reflects the gospel: God exalts the humble, gives grace to the lowly, chooses the weak to shame the strong (1 Cor 1:27-29). Church leadership must imitate God's compensatory honor-giving, protecting and elevating vulnerable members.

## Historical Context

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God's value-inversion challenged Roman patronage systems where benefactors bestowed honor on wealthy clients capable of reciprocation, ignoring the poor who

could give nothing back. Paul insists God's economy honors precisely those who lack honor in worldly systems.

## Related Passages

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**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

## Study Questions

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1. How does God's 'tempering' (blending) the body ensure every member receives appropriate honor?
2. What practices can churches adopt to give 'abundant honor' to those who 'lack' social status?
3. How does this verse inform how church budgets, platforms, and decision-making include marginalized voices?

## Interlinear Text

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τὰ δὲ εὐσχήμονα ἡμῶν οὐ χρείαν ἔχει ἀλλ' ὁ  
G3588 **For** **comely** **our** **no** **need** **parts have** **but** G3588  
G1161 G2158 G2257 G3756 G5532 G2192 G235

θεὸς συνεκέρασεν τὸ σῶμα τῷ ὑστεροῦντι  
**God** **hath tempered** G3588 **the body** G3588 **to that part which lacked**  
G2316 G4786 G4983 G5302

περισσότεραν δοὺς τιμὴν  
G4053 **having given** **honour**  
G1325 G5092

