

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

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

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

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

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

τὰ	δὲ	εὐσχήμονα	ήμῶν	οὐ	χρείαν	ἔχει	ἀλλ'	ό
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		
περισσοτέραν	δοὺς	τιμήν						
G4053	having given	honour						
	G1325	G5092						

