

1 Corinthians 12:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

That there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another.

Analysis

That there should be no schism in the body—Hina mē ē schisma en tō sōmati (ὕνα μὴ ἡ σχίσμα ἐν τῷ σώματι)—schisma (σχίσμα, "division, tear, split") is Paul's diagnosis of Corinth's core problem (cf. 1:10, "no divisions among you"). God's compensatory honor-system (vv.22-24) serves one purpose: **that there should be no schism**. Elevating weaker members prevents the strong from despising them; honoring uncomely members prevents division between haves and have-nots.

But that the members should have the same care one for another—to auto hyper allēlōn merimnōsin ta melē ("the members might have the same concern for one another")—merimnōsin (from merimnaō) means "anxious care, devoted concern." Mutual care (hyper allēlōn, "for one another") characterized by equality (to auto, "the same") prevents division. Eyes care for feet; head cares for hands. No hierarchy of concern where prominent members receive attention while hidden members are neglected. God's design creates interdependence producing mutual investment in each member's flourishing.

Historical Context

Corinth's church was fractured by class divisions—wealthy patrons hosting house churches, poor believers marginalized at the Lord's Supper (11:20-22). Paul's body-theology demands equal care regardless of social status, directly challenging their stratified society.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. What 'schisms' (divisions) exist in your church along lines of gifting, socioeconomic status, or influence?
2. How can churches foster 'the same care' for all members, not preferential care for prominent ones?
3. What practical expressions of 'care for one another' would prevent division in your church?

Interlinear Text

ἵνα μὴ ἦ σχίσμα ἐν τῷ σώματι ἀλλὰ τὸ⁵⁶⁰⁰
G2443 G3361 **there should be** **schism** **in** G3588 **the body** **but** G3588
G4978 G1722 G4983 G235

αὐτὸν ὑπὲρ ἀλλήλων μεριμνῶσιν τὰ μέλη⁵²²⁸
the same one for another care G3588 that the members
G846 G5228 G240 G3309 G3196

Additional Cross-References

2 Corinthians 13:11 (Parallel theme): Finally, brethren, farewell. Be perfect, be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace shall be with you.

2 Corinthians 8:16 (Parallel theme): But thanks be to God, which put the same earnest care into the heart of Titus for you.

1 Corinthians 3:3 (Parallel theme): For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?

2 Corinthians 7:12 (Parallel theme): Wherefore, though I wrote unto you, I did it not for his cause that had done the wrong, nor for his cause that suffered wrong, but that our care for you in the sight of God might appear unto you.

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