

1 Corinthians 15:38

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But God giveth it a body as it hath pleased him, and to every seed his own body.

Analysis

But God giveth it a body as it hath pleased him (ὁ δὲ θεὸς δίδωσιν αὐτῷ σῶμα καθὼς ἠθέλησεν)—The verb didōsin (δίδωσιν, "gives") is present tense, indicating God's ongoing creative activity in every seed's germination. God sovereignly determines (kathōs ēthelēsen, καθὼς ἠθέλησεν, "according as He willed") each seed's form. The resurrection body isn't chance product but divine gift, fashioned according to God's wise purpose.

And to every seed his own body (καὶ ἐκάστῳ τῶν σπερμάτων ἴδιον σῶμα)—The word idion (ἴδιον, "its own, proper to itself") indicates each seed type has a specific corresponding plant. God doesn't give wheat seed an oak tree body. Similarly, resurrection bodies will be fitted to redeemed humanity—not angel bodies, not our current bodies resuscitated, but glorified human bodies appropriate to the age to come. God determines form, not randomness.

Historical Context

Ancient biology recognized that seeds reproduce according to their kind (Genesis 1:11-12). Paul uses creation order to explain resurrection transformation—God who faithfully gives each seed its proper form will faithfully give believers resurrection bodies suited to eternal life. The Creator's consistency and wisdom guarantee resurrection's rationality.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does God's sovereignty over seed forms assure us He'll sovereignly fashion resurrection bodies?
2. What does 'his own body' indicate about individual identity being preserved in resurrection?
3. How should understanding resurrection body as divine gift (not earned) shape Christian hope?

Interlinear Text

ὁ	δὲ	θεὸς	αὐτῷ	δίδωσιν	σῶμα	καθὼς	ἠθέλησεν
G3588	But	God	it	giveth	a body	as	it hath pleased him
	G1161	G2316	G846	G1325	G4983	G2531	G2309
καὶ	ἐκάστω	τῶν	σπερμάτων	τὸ	ἴδιον	σῶμα	
and	to every	G3588	seed	G3588	his own	a body	
G2532	G1538		G4690		G2398	G4983	

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 61:11 (References God): For as the earth bringeth forth her bud, and as the garden causeth the things that are sown in it to spring forth; so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all the nations.

1 Corinthians 3:7 (References God): So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase.

