

1 Corinthians 7:24

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Brethren, let every man, wherein he is called, therein abide with God.

Analysis

Brethren, let every man, wherein he is called, therein abide with God—Paul concludes the circumcision/slavery discussion by repeating the chapter's governing principle for the third time (vv. 17, 20). The phrase *en hō eklēthē* (ἐν ᾧ ἐκλήθη, "in what [state] he was called") emphasizes the circumstances of conversion. *Menētō para theō* (μενέτω παρὰ θεῷ, "let him remain with God") adds crucial qualification.

The addition of *para theō* ("with God") transforms the command from mere social conservatism to spiritual contentment. Remaining in one's calling is not passive resignation but active service *coram Deo* (before God). Whether slave or free, circumcised or uncircumcised, married or single, believers live in God's presence, serving Him in their circumstances.

This principle does not forbid all change but warns against believing spiritual status depends on external circumstances. It promotes stability, counters restlessness, and affirms that God's calling comes to people in specific situations. Each person serves God where He has placed them, trusting His sovereignty over circumstances.

Historical Context

Paul's repeated emphasis on "remain as called" addressed social upheaval that could accompany Christian conversion. By teaching that spiritual transformation

transcends external circumstances, Paul promoted both personal contentment and community stability while the gospel gradually reshaped culture.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does "remain with God" differ from merely accepting circumstances passively?
2. What circumstances might believers wrongly think they must change to serve God more faithfully?
3. How does trusting God's sovereignty over our circumstances affect contentment and faithfulness?

Interlinear Text

ἕκαστος	ἐν	ᾧ	ἐκλήθη	ἀδελφοί	ἐν	τούτῳ	μενέτω
every man	therein	G3739	he is called	Brethren	therein	G5129	abide
G1538	G1722		G2564	G80	G1722		G3306
παρὰ	τῷ	θεῷ					
with	G3588	God					
G3844		G2316					

Additional Cross-References

1 Corinthians 7:20 (Parallel theme): Let every man abide in the same calling wherein he was called.

1 Corinthians 7:17 (References God): But as God hath distributed to every man, as the Lord hath called every one, so let him walk. And so ordain I in all churches.

