

Colossians 2:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And not holding the Head, from which all the body by joints and bands having nourishment ministered, and knit together, increaseth with the increase of God.

Analysis

And not holding the Head, from which all the body by joints and bands having nourishment ministered, and knit together, increaseth with the increase of God. The fundamental error: "not holding the Head" (ou kratōn tēn kephalēn, οὐ κρατῶν τὴν κεφαλὴν)—failing to maintain connection with Christ. All body systems depend on head-connection for direction, nourishment, and coordination. Severing this connection causes death, regardless of how impressive other religious practices appear.

"From which all the body by joints and bands having nourishment ministered, and knit together" describes organic unity. Haphōn kai syndesmōn (ἁφῶν καὶ συνδέσμων, "joints and ligaments") connects members to Head and each other. Christ supplies nourishment (epichorēgoumenon, ἐπιχορηγούμενον) enabling growth. The body "increaseth with the increase of God" (auxei tēn auxēsin tou theou, αὐξει τὴν αὐξησιν τοῦ θεοῦ)—growth is divine work, not human achievement.

Historical Context

Ancient medical understanding recognized body systems' dependence on nervous system and circulatory system originating in the head. Paul applies physiological knowledge spiritually: as physical body depends on head for life and function, the church depends on Christ. Any spirituality severed from Christ, regardless of

sophistication, is dead—motion without life, religious activity without divine power. True spiritual growth flows only from vital connection to Christ.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. What evidence exists that you're maintaining vital connection with Christ as Head versus religious activity disconnected from Him?
2. How do you nourish your connection to Christ daily—through Scripture, prayer, worship, obedience?
3. Where might your spiritual practices be impressive but disconnected from living relationship with Christ?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	οὐ	κρατῶν	τὴν	κεφαλὴν	ἐξ	οὗ	πάν	τὸ	σῶμα
And	not	holding	G3588	the Head	from	which	all	G3588	the body
G2532	G3756	G2902		G2776	G1537	G3739	G3956		G4983
διὰ	τῶν	ἁφῶν	καὶ	συνδέσμων	ἐπιχορηγούμενον	καὶ			
by	G3588	joints	And	bands	having nourishment ministered	And			
G1223		G860	G2532	G4886	G2023	G2532			
συμβιβαζόμενον	αὕξει	τὴν	αὕξησιν	τοῦ	θεοῦ				
knit together	increaseth	G3588	with the increase	G3588	of God				
G4822	G837		G838		G2316				

Additional Cross-References

2 Peter 3:18 (Parallel theme): But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.

1 Peter 3:8 (Parallel theme): Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous:

Colossians 2:2 (References God): That their hearts might be comforted, being knit together in love, and unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the acknowledgement of the mystery of God, and of the Father, and of Christ;

1 Thessalonians 4:10 (Parallel theme): And indeed ye do it toward all the brethren which are in all Macedonia: but we beseech you, brethren, that ye increase more and more;

1 Thessalonians 3:12 (Parallel theme): And the Lord make you to increase and abound in love one toward another, and toward all men, even as we do toward you:

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