

THE GREAT WENCHOSTER BIBLE

1 Corinthians 12: 14-18, 21-23

14. For the body, as it hath bits both great and small, is not one member, but many.
15. If the foot shall say, Because I am not the hand, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? And who is going to mention the smelling? Not me!
16. And if the ear shall say, Because I am not the eye, it is therefore not of the body? Nay – such a thought is far from my waxing.
17. If the whole body were an eye, where were the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where were the smelling? By now you should have caught my drift, as the hand may say if it were doing the catching – but not the seeing, nor the hearing, nor the smelling.
18. But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him. Or not, as the case may be.

21. And the eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee: nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you. If eyes could talk, that is.
22. Nay, much more those little members of the body, which seem to be more feeble, are necessary. But not in all circumstances.
23. And those members of the body, which we think to be less honourable, upon these we bestow more abundant honour; and our uncomely parts have more abundant comeliness. And it is to this uncomeliness which we come this day, that their unabundance and subsequent uncomeliness may give glory to the Lord in the highest with the highest. And such is both honourable and comely, without disunity or uncomely smell.

Note:

This reading is traditionally used in the Wenchoster Diocese at the annual Service of Admission of new choristers for the cathedral's Castrati Choir.