

The image features a blue architectural line drawing of a church building with a prominent steeple. A red, torn-paper-like shape is superimposed over the center of the drawing. The text 'Rethinking Church' is written in a black, serif font on this red shape. The drawing includes various architectural details like windows, doors, and a scale bar at the bottom left.

**Rethinking
Church**

Rethinking Church

When we, the church, are confused about who we are and whose we are, we can become anything and anyone's. We can become a goose-stepping, Hitler saluting abomination, as we were in the middle of the last century in Germany.

We can become a self-righteous, self-centered, and racist boot on the neck of our prostrate neighbors, as we were in South Africa until the end of apartheid.



Rethinking Church

We can become a machete-wielding, genocidal horror, as we were in Rwanda, just recently.

We can become a corpulent, self-important irrelevance, as we are in so much of America today.

And we can become a sad, shrunken ghost, pining for past glory and influence, as we are in Canada, Britain, and most of Europe.

- From the preface to Jack Stackhouse's *Evangelical Ecclesiology*



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I Cor. 12: 12-27

- ¹² Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³ For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. ¹⁴ Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many. ¹⁵ Now if the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” it would not for that reason stop being part of the body.



I Cor. 12: 12-27

- ¹⁶ And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. ¹⁷ If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? ¹⁸ But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. ¹⁹ If they were all one part, where would the body be?



I Cor. 12: 12-27

- ²⁰ As it is, there are many parts, but one body. ²¹ The eye cannot say to the hand, “I don’t need you!” And the head cannot say to the feet, “I don’t need you!” ²² On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, ²³ and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor.



I Cor. 12: 12-27

- And the parts that are unrepresentable are treated with special modesty, ²⁴ while our presentable parts need no special treatment. But God has put the body together, giving greater honor to the parts that lacked it, ²⁵ so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. ²⁶ If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it. ²⁷ Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.



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**Rethinking
Church**

Questions

- **Where have I been an ingrown toenail or a Lone Ranger?**



Questions

- Where have I been an ingrown toenail?
- **Where and in what ways have I said to someone “I don’t need you?”**



Questions

- Where have I been an ingrown toenail?
- Where and in what ways have I said to someone “I don’t need you?”
- **In what ways has my life not been shaped by and taken the shape of the cross?**



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- Where and in what ways have I said to someone “I don’t need you?”
- In what ways has my life not been shaped by and taken the shape of the cross?
- **In what ways has my participation in the body of Christ not increased the testimony that Jesus is alive?**



Questions

- Where have I been an ingrown toenail?
- Where and in what ways have I said to someone “I don’t need you?”
- In what ways has my life not been shaped by and taken the shape of the cross?
- In what ways has my participation in the body of Christ not increased the testimony that Jesus is alive?
- **What am I going to do about it?**



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