

Have you ever seen the church look ugly?

There's something so wrong—so desperately wrong—with the church being ugly that it scars us. Many deconversion stories start just this way. Many Christians no longer going to church cite this as the reason. Many of us who still go choose not to make ourselves vulnerable because we've seen it.



But why? Why is it so shocking? So disorienting?

Colossians 1:18 says “[Jesus] is the head of the body, the church...”.

Jesus is beautiful. If the head is beautiful and we expect the same from the body. When the head is beautiful and the body is a monster, it makes us question everything.

So what should the church be? The body takes its cues from the head. Is Jesus forgiving or condemning? Does Jesus redeem or discard? Does he welcome us in or shut us out? In the Kingdom of the Son we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. And THAT is the beauty the body should display.

Response:

To respond today, maybe we could ask ourselves: as part of the church, am I making her more beautiful? If I'm a part of the body, do I correspond to the head? Can others see the beauty of Christ in me?

Prayer:

Father, please fill my heart to overflow with forgiveness. Help me to be so filled, blessed, and kept with your forgiveness of me that I happily and freely extend it to others. I also pray for my church, us beautiful like our head—a community of people who forgive and welcome sinners. I pray in Jesus' name, amen.