Transitioning to an Outward-Focused Church

Outward-Focused Churches are “Inwardly Strong and Outwardly Focused”

Rick Rusaw and Eric Swanson, *Externally Focused Church*, page 12

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INWARDLY WEAK</th>
<th>INWARDLY STRONG</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Church of the Back Door</td>
<td>Great Commandment/ Great Commission Church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Church of the Favored Past</td>
<td>The Church about Me</td>
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</tbody>
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“To move from an inward-focused church to an outward-focused church, the culture of the church will need to change. An outward-focused church begins with building a solid theological foundation on God, which includes His desire to reach out and bless humankind.”

Dave E. Cole

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1 Survey adapted from Randy M. Keeley, *Coaching Pastors to lead their churches from an inward to an outward focus*, *Talbot School of Theology*, Published by ProQuest LLC (2013). Copyright in the Dissertation held by the Author. Microform Edition © ProQuest LLC. 191
1. Outward-Focused Church Theology
   - God’s Announcement of His Mission – Genesis 1:26
   - God’s Mission of Sending and Blessing – Genesis 12:1-3
   - God’s Mission of Love - John 3:2-3
     - A Call to Love God - Luke 10:25
     - A Call to Love Your Neighbor - Luke 10:30

2. Great Commission Conscience

3. Outward-Focused Inventory For Members

4. Outward-Focused Church Lenses
   1. Outward-focused Theology and Preaching
   2. Outward-focused Vision Casting
   3. Outward-focused Finances
   4. Outward-focused Relationships
   5. Outward-focused Language
   6. Outward-focused Assimilation
   7. Outward-focused Public Gatherings
   8. Outward-focused Pastor & Staff
   9. Outward-focused Prayer
   10. Outward-focused Spirit Empowerment

“So what makes a church outward focused as opposed to inward focused? Outward focus is simply, profoundly, and always a matter of priority. Here it is in a nutshell. When a church cannot do both, the outward focused church will always choose to do what is best for those who are not yet there. Whenever a church cannot simultaneously do what is best for the people who are already there and the people who are not yet there, the outward focused church will always choose to do what is best for the unbelieving, the unchurched, the de-churched, or the under-churched.”

– Dr. Bill Hoyt, Effectiveness by the Numbers, page 26.