

QUICK GUIDE

Autopsy of a Deceased Church
12 Ways to Keep Yours Alive

by Thom S. Rainer

While this summary bookmark is no substitute for reading the book, it can serve as an honest gut check now, to avoid being blind-sided in the future. Please feel free to call me if I may assist you! — mpg

10 Key Symptoms of a dying church

- [] 1 Ignoring their slow erosion
- [] 2 Banking on past successes
- [] 3 Refusing to adapt to change
- [] 4 Budgeting mostly for inreach
- [] 5 Drifting away from evangelism

- [] 6 Seeing the church as “my church”
- [] 7 Changing pastors frequently
- [] 8 Settling for passionless prayer
- [] 9 Losing sight of a clear purpose
- [] 10 Obsessing over facilities

12 Key Responses for Dying Churches

IF in early stages/degrees of symptoms above

- 1 Pray for a re-focus on church outreach
- 2 Audit outreach vs. inreach hours of ministry
- 3 Audit outreach vs. inreach use of budget funds
- 4 Create fresh ways to evangelize the community

IF in middle stages/degrees of symptoms above

- 5 Admit and confess the church's dire need
- 6 Pray for wisdom and courage to take action
- 7 Rally the church to be willing to change radically
- 8 Embed all changes with an outward focus

IF in late stages/degrees of symptoms above

- 9 Sell all assets; Give the money to start churches
- 10 Give/sign over the facilities to another church
- 11 Transfer authority to new transitional leadership
- 12 Merge with a church with mutual humility/trust

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