

Autopsy of a Deceased Church 12 Ways to Keep Yours Alive

by Thom S. Rainer

While this one page summary 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! — Mark

10 Key Symptoms of a Dying Church

<u>SYMPTOMS</u>	<u>HOW MUCH THIS DESCRIBES OUR CHURCH</u>
1 Ignoring their slow erosion	<input type="checkbox"/> Not us <input type="checkbox"/> Occasionally <input type="checkbox"/> Half & Half <input type="checkbox"/> Frequently <input type="checkbox"/> Mostly
2 Banking on past successes	<input type="checkbox"/> Not us <input type="checkbox"/> Occasionally <input type="checkbox"/> Half & Half <input type="checkbox"/> Frequently <input type="checkbox"/> Mostly
3 Refusing to adapt to change	<input type="checkbox"/> Not us <input type="checkbox"/> Occasionally <input type="checkbox"/> Half & Half <input type="checkbox"/> Frequently <input type="checkbox"/> Mostly
4 Budgeting mostly for in-reach	<input type="checkbox"/> Not us <input type="checkbox"/> Occasionally <input type="checkbox"/> Half & Half <input type="checkbox"/> Frequently <input type="checkbox"/> Mostly
5 Drifting away from evangelism	<input type="checkbox"/> Not us <input type="checkbox"/> Occasionally <input type="checkbox"/> Half & Half <input type="checkbox"/> Frequently <input type="checkbox"/> Mostly
6 Seeing the church as “my church”	<input type="checkbox"/> Not us <input type="checkbox"/> Occasionally <input type="checkbox"/> Half & Half <input type="checkbox"/> Frequently <input type="checkbox"/> Mostly
7 Changing pastors frequently	<input type="checkbox"/> Not us <input type="checkbox"/> Occasionally <input type="checkbox"/> Half & Half <input type="checkbox"/> Frequently <input type="checkbox"/> Mostly
8 Settling for passionless prayer	<input type="checkbox"/> Not us <input type="checkbox"/> Occasionally <input type="checkbox"/> Half & Half <input type="checkbox"/> Frequently <input type="checkbox"/> Mostly
9 Losing sight of a clear purpose	<input type="checkbox"/> Not us <input type="checkbox"/> Occasionally <input type="checkbox"/> Half & Half <input type="checkbox"/> Frequently <input type="checkbox"/> Mostly
10 Obsessing over facilities	<input type="checkbox"/> Not us <input type="checkbox"/> Occasionally <input type="checkbox"/> Half & Half <input type="checkbox"/> Frequently <input type="checkbox"/> Mostly

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. in-reach hours of ministry
- 3 Audit outreach vs. in-reach 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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