



Where is Your Church Focused?

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Let's Consider Three Things

- The definition of and difference between community-focused and internally-focused churches
- Which kind of church is biblical – an internally focused or community focused church?
- How can we be the kind of church God calls us to be?

What are the Characteristics of an Internally Focused church?

- Good worship
- Strong ministries
- Focuses attention on getting people into church and what happens in church.
- Effectiveness determined by attendance and quality of worship
- Time and budget primarily spent on what occurs inside the church walls

What are the Characteristics of a Community Focused Church?

- Good worship
- Strong ministries
- Focuses attention on taking good news and good deeds into the community
- Effectiveness measured by impact on community
- Large portion of *time* and *budget* spent on what occurs outside the church walls

Which Kind of Church is Biblical?

- Church to be salt. - Matthew 5:13
- Church to be light. - Matthew 5:14-16
- Church called to be fishermen. – Mark 1:16
- Church has social and spiritual responsibility. - Isaiah 58; Proverbs 31:8-9

We Face a Choice

“Society is like a stream. If we don’t like the way it is going, we face a choice. We can either stand on the banks yelling and screaming about what is going wrong in the stream, or we can roll up our pant’s legs and wade in. We’ve decided at LifeBridge that we want to wade in and do whatever it takes to effect positive change.” - Rick Rusaw, Senior Pastor of LifeBridge Church, *The Externally Focused Church*, p. 49

How to Become a Community Focused Church

- Determine to be community-focused pastor, officers and congregation
- Know your community
 - Use Link2Lead.com
 - Listen to community leaders
 - Do community tour / survey

How to Become a Community Focused Church

- Plan with community in mind
 - Every department's plans and should be community focused
 - Every department should be involved in the community

How to Become a Community Focused Church

- Get involved with “good deeds” and “good news”
 - Social Involvement and Activism (Proverbs 31:8-9)
 - Spiritual Witness
 - Keep good deeds and good news balanced.

Overcome the Four Big Hurdles

- Resistance to Change
 - Answer: This is not new. It was modeled by Jesus. More than 80% of His ministry was outside of the church walls.
- Finances
 - Answer: “Let your requests be known unto God”
- Lack of Faith
 - Answer: Practice individual and institutional faith
- Fear
 - Answer: Forget self and focus on others

Commitment to Share and Care

We commit ourselves to becoming a community-focused church which shares God's love in our community by word and deed. We will make this happen within the next six months by getting to know our community, planning all ministry with the community in mind and then getting actively involved in the life of our community.