

"Outward: Facing Outward"

"More than any one item, these dying churches focused on their own needs instead of others. They looked inwardly instead of outwardly. Their highest priorities were the way they've always done it, and that which made them the most comfortable."

~Thom Rainer, Autopsy of a Deceased Church, pg. 22

1) Though Christ's Church does have _____ responsibility (1 Cor. 12:24-28), the danger is being _____ with the needs/desires of insiders.

- My wants, desires, and preferences around here.
- Obsession with buildings and minutia meetings.
- "Come to us" mentality.
- Budget reflects inward priorities.

Apostello: to be _____ out/forth!

"And Isaiah heard the voice of the LORD saying, 'Whom shall I send & who will go for US?' Isaiah said, 'Here I am! Send me!'"
~Isaiah 6:8

Jesus prayed to the Father, "As You sent Me into the world, so I have sent them into the world." ~John 17:18

"...in the things that have now been announced to you through those who preached the good news to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven..." ~1 Peter 1:12

2) Note the progression: the Father _____ the Son, the Father & the Son _____ the Holy Spirit, the Father, Son & Holy Spirit _____ us.

3) Mission/facing outward begins _____!

"God does not have a mission for His Church; He has a Church for His mission." ~Christopher Wright

- Whose mission is it? _____

4) Mission ISN'T a department, committee, or program of a congregation; mission is _____.

"I believe in one holy Christian and _____ Church..."
~The Nicene Creed

- REMEMBER: Mission or "facing outward" must never be for _____ - such as image, attendance, budget, or influence - but simply because people _____!!!!

Facing Outward in 2018: Imagine...

- What could it look like for every aspect of Trinity to face outward to our community and world?
- What could it look like for you and your family to face outward on your street/block?
- How is God working through you to do good in your neighborhood?
- What conversations are you having with pre-Christians?
- How could you face outward at school? On social media? In the office this week? While shopping?