

THEOLOGY PUB

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“Stop asking God to bless what you’re doing. Get involved in what God is doing – because it’s already blessed.” / Bono

Do you ever find yourself asking any of these types of questions?

- * Do you find yourself wanting to sleep in on Sunday, wondering how the church got so irrelevant?
- * Do you think the church doesn't matter?
- * Do you wish the church cared as much about the community as it does itself?
- * A conversation about how an irrelevant church re-connects to the community.

Some folks reflect on the Church

The church... is not meant to call men and women out of the world into a safe religious enclave but to call them out in order to send them back as agents of God's kingship. **-Leslie Newbigin**

I'm completely in favor of the separation of Church and State. My idea is that these two institutions screw us up enough on their own, so both of them together is certain death. **-George Carlin**

Anyone who is to find Christ must first find the church. How could anyone know where Christ is and what faith is in him unless he knew where his believers are? **-Martin Luther**

The church is missionary by nature because God has sent it on a mission in the world under the leading of the Holy Spirit. It is to bear witness to God's redemptive reign. Just as God is a missionary God, so the church is to be a missionary church.

The Essence of the Church, by Craig Van Gelder

The church doesn't exist for itself; it exists to serve the world. It is not ultimately about the church; it's about the people God wants to bless through the church. When the church loses sight of this, it loses its heart.

Velvet Elvis, by Rob Bell

Mission is no longer about crossing the oceans, jungles and deserts, but about crossing the streets of the world's cities.

A Theology as Big as the City, by Ray Bakke

Some questions to think about

- * What do you think the church's role in community is?
- * How are things changing - how does that effect church?
- * How does or doesn't the church relate or reflect what's going on in the larger community?
- * Does the church have a more positive or negative effect on our community?