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CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

"This could be a word of caution to those who place their eternal security in church membership rather than Jesus Christ. The late Corrie ten Boom, a survivor of the Holocaust used to say, 'A mouse in a cookie jar isn't a cookie.'" (Facing Death and the Life After by Billy Graham, 1987, p. 230)

Most would agree we should honor the scripture that encourages us to attend church as often quoted in Hebrew 10:25. It says, "...not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together..." The real question is does one's church membership make them a member of the church of Jesus Christ? Attending a specific church and physically following the protocol of joining that assembly is good and I encourage people to do so. But, one should not be deceived into thinking that is an end all. Membership into the body of Christ requires being born again and that means one must acknowledge they are a sinner and repent of their sin. It is needful to acknowledge Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior. You need Him as Savior since He died for your sins and offers forgiveness and acceptance into the family of God. You need Him as Lord realizing He must govern your heart and direct your life if you have accepted Christ into your life. One cannot overlook being baptized in water and since we do all things in Jesus name, it is good to be baptized in Jesus name as well. This fulfills Jesus instruction to be born of the water. In addition, being filled with the Holy Ghost as the apostles and believers in the New Testament church did fulfills being born of the Spirit. Speaking in tongues as the spirit gives utterance is a wonderful experience and every believer should embrace it. In addition, being a member of the church of Jesus Christ means one's willing to experience the sanctification process of allowing the Jesus to teach us how to live holy in this present world. It is important to seek the Lord about what church assembly you should join as it is necessary where you attend will provide the spiritual nourishment your soul needs to flourish.

Ultimately, your membership into the church of Jesus Christ is foremost and needful. So, if you or someone you know has joined a church assembly but have not joined the church of Jesus Christ, this Christmas season would be a perfect **time to change** that situation. Christ was born to bring about the process of our being born into the family of God. We should not let church membership be greater than being born into the family of God through Jesus Christ!

Residing in Fort Worth, TX, Dr. Vanessa Dantzler Ussery is the former Senior Pastor of Home Assembly Church in Los Angeles and currently serves as its Chief Executive Officer. She is also the founder of "Celebrate Change Ministries" and the author of "My Be Attitude: Who Be You?", which is available online in softcover or eBook at MyBeAttitude.org, Xulon Press, Amazon and Barnes & Noble. Dr. Ussery is available for national speaking engagements, empowerment seminars, and lectures.

Info@CelebrateChange.org / 866-232-8176