



Let's Talk CHANGE DEVOTIONALS

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“DO” CHURCH?

Dr. Vanessa Dantzer Ussery | October 21, 2015

“First, predominantly ekklesia (both in the singular and plural) applies to the local assembly of those who profess faith in and allegiance to Christ. Second, ekklesia designates the universal church (ex. Acts 8:3) especially in the later Pauline letters (ex. Ephesians 1:22). Third, the ekklesia is God’s congregation.” Excerpt from Baker’s Evangelical Dictionary of Biblical Theology on StudyLight.org

The word 'church' in Greek is 'eklesia'. It's time to “go, grow and glow in change.” We need to change our way of talking about the church to show the right perspective and gain a greater appreciation of who is the church.

I must begin by saying no one can “do” church. When you understand the church is a body of people who gather to worship, praise and learn about their Lord and Savior then one must change the expressions used. Church is not an event and, in reality, any edifice God’s people assemble in to worship is called church because the people of God are in attendance. To title an edifice church is only apropos for the expressed purpose of the assembly of God’s people for worship, prayer, singing, teaching/preaching the word, fellowship and communion, to name the most common practices. The named items are practices of worship. When Home Assembly’s new sanctuary was being prepared, the church would convene in an elementary school that was in walking distance to our new building. Being in the school building didn’t diminish the presence of the Spirit of the Lord in our midst.

We say the church is the body of Christ, so how can we “do” church? We use the expression we know how to “do” church meaning we clap, shout, etc at a service. I feel this mindset devalues the body of Christ, which is His church. Jesus died to have a people called by His name and the collective term is ekklesia (church). The church of Jesus Christ can’t “do” church simply because it is “the” church. When two or three are gathered together in His name it is the church and when you or I are not together we remain the church. When Jesus returns, it is to receive the church as His body.

Let’s honor the Lord’s supreme sacrifice that He made when His blood was shed to establish the church. Perhaps our respect for coming to our church building (the assembling place) will stopped being viewed as a place to “do” church and be honored as a place where we the church gather to honor, praise, worship and learn more about the Lord. Then when we leave the service, His church will remember we light up the world with the Glory of God and we should strive more diligently to live in a way wherein we lift up His name by our honorable lifestyle to draw others to Christ and be added to the church.

We don’t need to “do” church. WEMUST REMEMBER WE ARE THE CHURCH!

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