

# Four Great Descriptions of the Church

Ephesians 2:14-22

## Introduction:

- A. Church misunderstood by many — even members of the church.
  - 1. What is the church?
  - 2. What is its place and purpose in the world?
  - 3. A collective noun referring to God's people called out the world to serve Him.
- B. The *descriptions* that Paul gives in our text helps us understand more.

## Discussion:

### I. The Church Is the *Body of Christ* (v. 16)

- A. The body is the church (1:22, 23).
- B. The body is reconciled to God - saved (cf. Acts 2:47).
  - 1. Baptized to be reconciled to God — saved (1 Pet 3:21).
  - 2. Baptized into one body (1 Cor. 12:13)
- C. The body is nurtured and directed by the head.
  - 1. Each member much function as he directs (4:16)
  - 2. Each member has his distinctive role under the head.

### II. The Church Is the *Kingdom of God* (v. 19)

- A. "Fellow citizens" in a commonwealth, nation, or kingdom.
- B. Jesus used church and kingdom interchangeably (Matt. 16:18-19).
- C. It is not of the world (John 18:36).
  - 1. No geographical or physical boundaries.
  - 2. A spiritual kingdom containing all Christians. (Cf. Phil. 3:20; 1 Pet. 2:9).
  - 3. Governed by the law of the perfect law of liberty (Jas. 1:25; 2 Tim. 3:16-17; 1 Cor. 9:21)
- D. It is not a democracy, but a monarchy.
  - 1. Christ is sole ruler (Acts 2:29-36).
  - 2. Christ has all authority (Matt. 28:20).

### III. The Church Is the *Household of God* (v. 19)

- A. Born into it (1 Pet. 1:22, 23).
- B. A great privilege (1 John 3:1; Rom. 8:17).
  - 1. Hear or prayers.
  - 2. Forgive our sins.
- C. Great responsibilities.
  - 1. Should wear His name (3:15).
  - 2. Should behave as his children (1 Tim. 3:15).

### IV. The Church Is the *Temple of God* (v. 21)

- A. In Old Testament He put his name in material building.
- B. In New Testament it is in a spiritual house (1 Pet. 2:5, 9)
  - 1. A sanctuary for worship.
  - 2. All priests in the temple.
  - 3. Offer spiritual sacrifices (cf. Heb. 13:15-16; John 4:23-24).

## Conclusion:

- A. Are you a member, a fellow citizen, a child of God, a living stone?
- B. Why not obey the gospel today?