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.
      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.

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