Who Belongs to the Church?

Misunderstanding of the Church

1. Identified with the wrong thing.
2. Membership is an easy, casual thing.
3. I am forming an institution.
4. Membership is all my occasion.

The Meaning of the Church

1. Core community.
   - Holy
   - Inside
   - Minding
2. Christ and His Church, living, vital, holy.
3. Giver by dependence on God's resources.
4. Gives itself for the sake of the world.
2.

Who Belongs?

1. Those Who Are Alive in Christ.
   - Once dead in sin, following the course of this world, living in disobedience.
   - Now made alive in Christ
     - Part of the life with Christ
     - Recipients of the fruits of the Holy Spirit

2. Those Brought Near to God Through the Blood
   - Separated from God
     - Strangers to his promises
     - No people
     - Without God and without hope
     - Foreign land

3. Those for Whom the Wall Has Been Broken Down
   - At war with God
     - Hostility
   - The wall has been broken down
     - Peace has been declared.
The End of All

- fellow citizens with the saints
- members of the household of God.

This is all a gift of grace through faith.