Walls: Bulwarks & Barriers	
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Andrew Boltman

Famous Walls

- Great Wall of China
- Berlin Wall
- Donald's Wall
- North Korea
- West Bank Barrier



Famous Walls





Famous Walls





Famous Walls





Famous Walls

'Every border wall has a particular historical context behind its creation. Yet they all announce the same message to the world: Our diplomatic and economic relationships with our neighbours have failed, and we are unwilling to repair them.'



Purpose of Walls

- Bulwark: A defensive Wall, Rampart, Fortification, Palisade, Barricade.
- Barrier: A fence or other obstacle that prevents movement or access, a circumstance or obstacle that keeps people or things apart or prevents communication or progress.



Purpose of Walls

- Keeping people in or keeping people out?
- In the world today, barriers being addressed for the sake of 'freedom' and 'equality'



Our Walls?

- Walls between us and God
- Walls between us and our neighbour



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·Sin, Pride, Self

'But your iniquities have *built barriers* between you and your God, and your sins have made Him hide His face from you so that He does not listen.'

Isaiah 59:2, Holman Christian Standard Bible



Walls between us and God

'If we want to climb the unclimbable mountains of God's majesty and begin to discern his will, we must die to our sense of our own grandeur. We must break free from our illusions about the pleasures and acceptance of our small world, and fix the eyes of our hearts on the bigness and beauty of our God.'

Marshall Segal, Desiring God



Walls between us and God

Riches

'The wealth of the rich is *their fortified city*; they *imagine it a wall too high to scale.*'

Proverbs 18:11, NIV



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• Favouritism / Discrimination

'My brothers and sisters, believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ must not show *favouritism*. 2 Suppose a man comes into your meeting wearing a gold ring and fine clothes, and a poor man in filthy old clothes also comes in. 3 If you show *special attention* to the man wearing fine clothes and say,

James 2:1-10, NIV



Walls between us and our neighbour

• Favouritism / Discrimination

""Here's a good seat for you," but say to the poor man, "You stand there" or "Sit on the floor by my feet,"4 have you not *discriminated* among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?

James 2:1-10, NIV



Walls between us and our neighbour

• Favouritism / Discrimination

'8 If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, "Love your neighbour as yourself," you are doing right. 9 But if you show favouritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as lawbreakers. 10 For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it.

James 2:1-10, NIV



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Racism

Definition: prejudice, discrimination, or antagonism directed against someone of a different race based on the belief that one's own race is superior.



Walls between us and our neighbour

Racism

'11 When Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned. 12 For before certain men came from James, he used to eat with the Gentiles. But when they arrived, *he began to draw back and separate himself from the Gentiles* because he was afraid of those who belonged to the circumcision group.

Galatians 2:11-12, NIV

Walls between us and our neighbour

• Pride

'3 Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in **humility** value *others above yourselves*,'

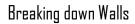
Philippians 2:3, NIV



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- Jealousy / Envy
- '3 At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another. 4 But when the kindness and love of God our Saviour appeared, 5 he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit,

Titus 3:3-5, NIV



- · Love breaks walls down
- '4 Love is patient, love is kind. It *does not envy*, it *does not boast*, it is *not proud*. 5 It does not dishonor others, it is *not self-seeking*, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. 6 Love does not delight in evil but *rejoices with the truth*. 7 It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

1 Corinthians 13:4-7, NIV

Breaking down Walls

- · Love looks like Jesus
- 'Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.'

John 15:13, NIV



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Barrier Broken

 $^{'14}$ For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one *and has destroyed the barrier*, the *dividing wall of hostility*,'

Ephesians 2:14, NIV



Building Walls

• Bulwark built

'30 "I looked for someone among them who would build up the wall and stand before me in the gap on behalf of the land so I would not have to destroy it, but I found no one.'

Ezekiel 22:30, NIV



Building Walls

• Bulwark built

'3 *There was no one*—no one in Heaven, no one on earth, no one from the underworld—*able to break open the scroll and read it.* 4-5 I wept and wept and wept that no one was found able to open the scroll, able to read it. One of the Elders said, "Don't weep. Look—the Lion from Tribe Judah, the Root of David's Tree, has conquered. He can open the scroll, can rip through the seven seals."

Revelation 5:3-5, MSG



Building Walls		
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