

Walls: Bulwarks & Barriers



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



Walls between us and God

• 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



Walls between us and our neighbour

• 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



Walls between us and our neighbour

• 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



Walls between us and our neighbour

• 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



Breaking down Walls

• 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



Breaking down Walls

- 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


