

"Walls, Good and Bad" by Valorie Cole
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American Baptist Women's Ministries
Posted January 2022

Walls, Good and Bad Devotional

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As we begin using our new theme, "Let the Walls Fall Down," we need to consider what walls are used for and why.

Walls and fences are made from a wide variety of materials and are used to keep people and animals in a defined area or sometimes to keep intruders out. Many homeowners plant trees and bushes on the boundary lines of their property to designate what belongs to them. This may send a subtle message, "You stay on your side, and I'll stay on my side."

I have seen and have been amazed by stone fences that can be found winding their way up and down hillsides and across the mountain pastures. These stone walls reflect many hours of hard, back-breaking work of picking up, hauling, and stacking each stone. By creating these stone walls, fields and pastures were cleared for use, property lines were defined, and farm animals could be kept in or out.



What are we keeping in? What are we keeping out? As American Baptist women, we have done these very things with our own property and our homes. Is it necessary? Yes, in multiple cases, our society has dictated how we should live. One of our theme scriptures is Ephesians 2:14 (NKJV), "For Christ Himself has brought peace to us. He united Jews and Gentiles into one people when, in His own body on the cross, He broke down the wall of hostility that separated us."

Not only do people create physical walls, but we also have been known to put up invisible walls to keep other people, different ideas, and even new ways of doing things from interfering with our ideas, what we prefer to do, or our daily routines. Does what they have to say or do make it wrong? What does Jesus say?

Refusing to listen to others, not being willing to show any compromise on the nonessential things of this earth, and displaying a selfish stubbornness can sometimes lead to "wall building" between any group of people, individuals, family members, and even congregations.

We need to be open and listen to what others have to say. But, keep in mind what Christ tells us to do. We are to follow Christ and Christ's example. We are to be more like Christ and share the love Christ has with others. Not everyone is right. Not everyone is wrong. This is where our Christian values come into plain view for us and others. We do not have to go along with the flow, especially if it is against what Christ has taught us.