

The Lowedown

A monthly newsletter from the life and ministry of Dave & Jennifer Lowe

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Tear Down This Wall

In June of 1987, President Reagan gave one of the defining speeches of his presidency.

It was the height of the cold war and Communism still ruled a third of the known world. In Germany, the fallout from WWII was still evident as the country was divided—Eastern Germany was still under communist control while West Germany experienced the freedom that democracy had provided.

Berlin was a city that represented the division of east vs. west. A wall separated the city along geographic boundaries. That wall not only represented the political divide that existed but the relational divide as well. Families were separated and could not freely move from one part of the city to the other.

The wall represented the absence of freedom, the absence of unity and the absence of peace.

Standing at the wall and speaking to West Berlin citizens, and being heard by those on the Eastern side as well, Reagan spoke about the failures of communism and the success of democracy. He then issued a direct challenge to then Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev:

“General Secretary Gorbachev, if you seek peace, if you seek prosperity for the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, if you seek liberalization: Come here to this gate! Mr. Gorbachev, open this gate! Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall!”

Just two years later, the Berlin wall was torn down, marking the beginning of the end for the communist regime in Eastern Europe.

I’ve been thinking about walls a lot more lately because of our home remodel.

About 5 months ago we began demolition of our backyard in the

hopes of building additional space to our small home. During the entire construction process, we kept our existing wall up to minimize dust and construction debris, and to maintain, as much as possible, a normal home.

Yet as time has progressed and as our addition has progressed, the wall has remained.

As I’ve thought about it, walls often times represent a roadblock. As long as the wall remains, the project will not be completed and remains unfinished.

In our ministry, there are lots of walls—roadblocks that are keeping us from the progress we want to see as we seek to expand what God is doing in the lives of students.

Ultimately, walls represent a lack of access. As long as that wall remains, we will not have access to the new part of our home. It cannot be used the way it was intended and we will not experience the benefits as they were designed.

On campus, walls represent our lack of access to students and sharing with them the message of Christ’s love for them.

Thinking about walls in this way led me to think about the ultimate wall that was torn down.

In the Old Testament temple, there was an inner room that represented the very presence of God. This room was so sacred that only one person, the high priest, could enter that room once a year.

After an elaborate purification process, the high priest would go into the Holy of Holies and offer a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the nation of Israel.

When Jesus died on the cross in our place, an interesting thing happened in the temple. Matthew

27:41 says,

“And behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom...”

The wall that separated us from God was torn in two! Jesus tore down the wall that prevented us from accessing God.

What an amazing truth to consider: A wall existed that made it impossible for us to access God because of His holiness. Jesus, through His death on the cross, not only paid the penalty for our sins, but He tore the veil that kept us from entering into the very presence of God!

Last weekend, after having worked on drywall for nearly a month, I finally tore down the wall that separated my existing house from my new addition. It is amazing how different things look. Yet the addition is not complete. There’s still more drywall to be hung; walls need to be textured; floors are not done; doors still need to be hung and bathroom fixtures still need to be installed.

I think about how that is like us. When we come to Christ and the wall that separated us from God comes down, we gain access to God, but the renovation process in our lives is not complete. God is not done with us.

Though we now have access to God, there is still a process where God continues to repair us and make us whole. He slowly transforms us, if we allow Him, into the person He designed us to be.

Thanks for your part in our personal transformation and thanks for partnering with us as we seek to help students tear down the walls in their lives that are keeping them from experiencing the transforming power of Jesus Christ in their lives.