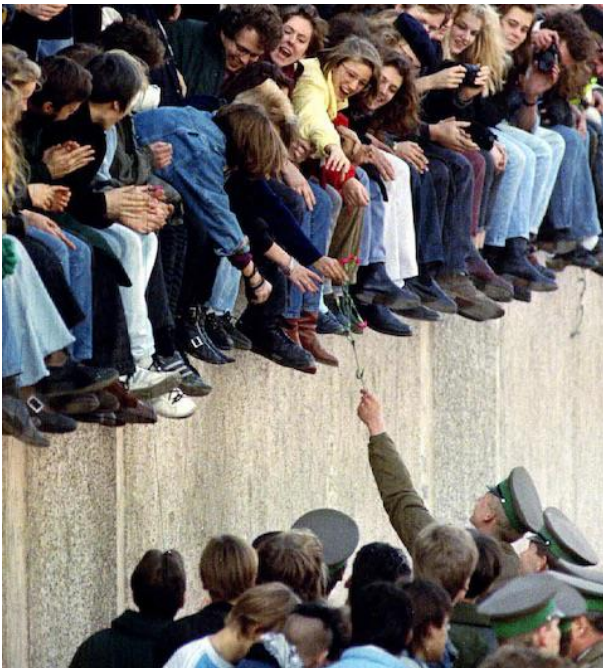


Peace

“Church, tear down this wall!”

Reminiscent of what President Reagan asked Mr. Gorbachev to do to the Berlin Wall. As I read today’s devotional, I remembered those words and watching the Berlin Wall come down. I had just started my freshman year in college and could not really grasp that families and friends who had been separated for 28 years by a wall that went up overnight could now see, visit, talk, and hug one another. Even now, it’s tough to imagine physical walls that separate families and friends.



This is a photo of an East German border policeman handing a flower to a West Berliner on the wall the weekend it fell in 1989.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/kidspost/the-berlin-wall-fell-25-years-ago/2014/11/06/4d2a900c-5fab-11e4-9f3a-7e28799e0549_story.html

Of course, there aren’t physical walls permanently dividing us now, but there are things we let separate us. Pride and jealousy. Instead of admitting we are hurt, we distance ourselves to protect ourselves. Isolation doesn’t help build community. Refusing to admit we need help because need to be the strong independent person we are supposed to be just like “*insert name here*”. Believing others wouldn’t want to be with “boring us”; so we don’t invite because we fear the rejection. Pride separates us from friends and family when we will not admit we were wrong or accept an apology. Pride prevents us from listening to understand and instead to listen to respond. Jealousy stops us from serving because we aren’t as good as “*insert name here*”. Jealousy even holds us back from pursuing new friendships because we think we aren’t good enough.

Pride and jealousy hold us back from living in true community and living together in peace. We each have our unique purpose – we can't all be the kneecap! Let go of your pride and jealousy and join the community. Let's experience a little bit of peace on earth.

“Don't just pretend to love others. Really love them. Hate what is wrong. Hold tightly to what is good. Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other.”

Romans 12:9-10 NLT

<https://www.bible.com/bible/116/rom.12.9-10.NLT>