

NO WALLS.

FULL YOUTH PASTOR SCRIPT • GALATIANS 2:11-18

NO WALLS. NO COMPROMISE. JUST JESUS.

Leader Setup

Keep the boxes from the opening game visible throughout the message. The physical wall becomes the visual thread of the sermon.

- Main text: Galatians 2:11-18
- Supporting texts: Matthew 22:37-39; Acts 10:28; Galatians 1:6-10; Ephesians 2:14-16; Galatians 3:28-29; 1 Corinthians 13
- Big idea: Jesus tore down walls. Stop rebuilding them.
- Response question: What wall am I rebuilding?

GAME TRANSITION

Look around. A few minutes ago every team had a wall. Your job was to protect yours and destroy theirs. Some of you defended cardboard boxes like your family's inheritance was inside them. But the whole game ran on two ideas: MY WALL NEEDS TO STAY UP. YOUR WALL NEEDS TO COME DOWN.

That is funny with boxes and mustard. It is not funny when that is how we live. We build relational walls with cliques, gossip, labels, popularity, fear, bitterness, who gets invited, who gets ignored, and who we are willing to be seen with.

Sometimes we are so busy protecting our walls that we do not realize Jesus came to tear them down.

PART 1 - LOVE GOD. LOVE PEOPLE.

Read Matthew 22:37-39.

Jesus connects two loves: love God with everything and love your neighbor as yourself. We like 'love God.' We will worship, pray, come to youth, post the verse. Then Jesus says, 'Love people,' and it gets harder because people can annoy us, hurt us, embarrass us, disagree with us, and get on our nerves.

You cannot separate your relationship with God from the way you treat people. You cannot say 'I love Jesus' and intentionally make someone feel worthless. You cannot say 'I love Jesus' while destroying someone with gossip.

LOVING GOD MEANS LOVING PEOPLE.

PART 2 - PETER KNEW BETTER

Read Galatians 2:11-18.

Peter was not new to Jesus. He walked with Jesus, saw miracles, heard His teaching, and became a leader in the early church. Peter knew better - and still messed up.

Peter had been eating with Gentile believers. Then certain Jewish people arrived and Peter pulled away because he was afraid of what they thought. He had already said in Acts 10:28 that God showed him not to call anyone impure or unclean. He knew. Fear still changed his behavior.

Ask: Have you ever treated someone differently because your friends walked up? Been kind privately but would not be seen with them publicly? Ignored someone because your group did not like them?

Peter's fear influenced other people too. Barnabas followed him. Your behavior affects the room.

PART 3 - THE FALSE GOSPEL

Paul does not treat Peter's behavior as simple bad manners. Peter's actions communicated: 'Jesus is not enough. You need something extra to belong.'

That is why Galatians 1 matters. Paul warns about a different gospel. The Gospel is not Jesus + popularity. Jesus + the right clothes. Jesus + the right family. Jesus + perfect behavior. Jesus + fitting our group.

THE TRUE & ONLY GOSPEL IS JESUS + NOTHING.

We are justified through faith in Jesus Christ. When we create our own requirements for who deserves a seat at the table, we rebuild walls Jesus destroyed.

PART 4 - JESUS TORE DOWN WALLS

Read Ephesians 2:14-16.

Jesus destroyed the barrier - the dividing wall of hostility - and reconciled people through the cross.

Pick up the boxes from the game. Build one brick at a time as you say: 'They're weird.' 'They are not in our group.' 'You do not know what they did.' 'Nobody else likes them.' 'They're annoying.' 'They're not like me.'

Brick by brick, we rebuild what Jesus destroyed.

Galatians 2:18 says, 'If I rebuild what I destroyed, then I really would be a lawbreaker.' Sometimes the wall is an empty chair. Sometimes it is a group chat. Sometimes it is silence when someone walks over. Sometimes it is gossip disguised as a prayer request.

WHEN WE REBUILD WALLS WITH CLIQUES, GOSSIP, OR EXCLUSION, WE WORK AGAINST JESUS.

PART 5 - NO WALLS DOES NOT MEAN NO TRUTH

Love does not mean agreeing with everything everybody does. Truth matters. Sin matters. Jesus calls us to change.

But Christians do not have to choose between truth and love. We do not compromise truth to gain approval, and we do not use truth as permission to be cruel.

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PART 6 - THE LOVE LADDER

Loving God without loving people is like trying to climb with one hand. Loving people without God leaves us trying to generate from ourselves what eventually runs dry.

LOVE GOD + LOVE PEOPLE. That is the pattern Jesus gave us.

PART 7 - CHECK YOUR LOVE WALK

Read 1 Corinthians 13:4-7.

First think about God's character. Then replace the word 'love' with your own name. Do not perform. Be honest. Where is it true? Where do you need Jesus' help?

Ask: Who have I made feel outside? What wall do I need to stop rebuilding? What is one step I will take this week?

RESPONSE

Return to the wall.

Your assignment at the beginning was: protect your wall and destroy theirs. What if Jesus is asking you to stop protecting the wall?

Maybe your wall is pride. Fear. Gossip. Bitterness. Popularity. Judgment. Jealousy. Exclusion.

Do not ask, 'Who else needs to tear their wall down?' Ask: WHAT WALL AM I REBUILDING?

Maybe tearing it down means sitting with someone, apologizing, shutting down gossip, inviting someone, refusing to laugh, forgiving, or treating someone the same when your friends enter the room.

GOSPEL LANDING

You do not tear down walls so Jesus will finally love you. Jesus loved first. You do not earn a seat at His table. Jesus went to the cross for sinners and reconciles us to God.

This is not 'go be nicer.' This is: JESUS, MAKE MY LIFE LOOK LIKE YOUR GOSPEL.

FINAL DECLARATION

Leader: NO WALLS.

Students: NO WALLS.

Leader: NO COMPROMISE.

Students: NO COMPROMISE.

Leader: JUST JESUS.

Students: JUST JESUS.

Love God. Love people. Do not rebuild what Jesus destroyed.

CLOSING PRAYER

Jesus, thank You for loving us first and for the cross. Show us the walls we have built. Show us where fear, pride, gossip, labels, bitterness, or exclusion control us. Forgive us. Teach us to love people without compromising truth. Make the way we treat people line up with the Gospel we say we believe. No walls. No compromise. Just Jesus. Amen.