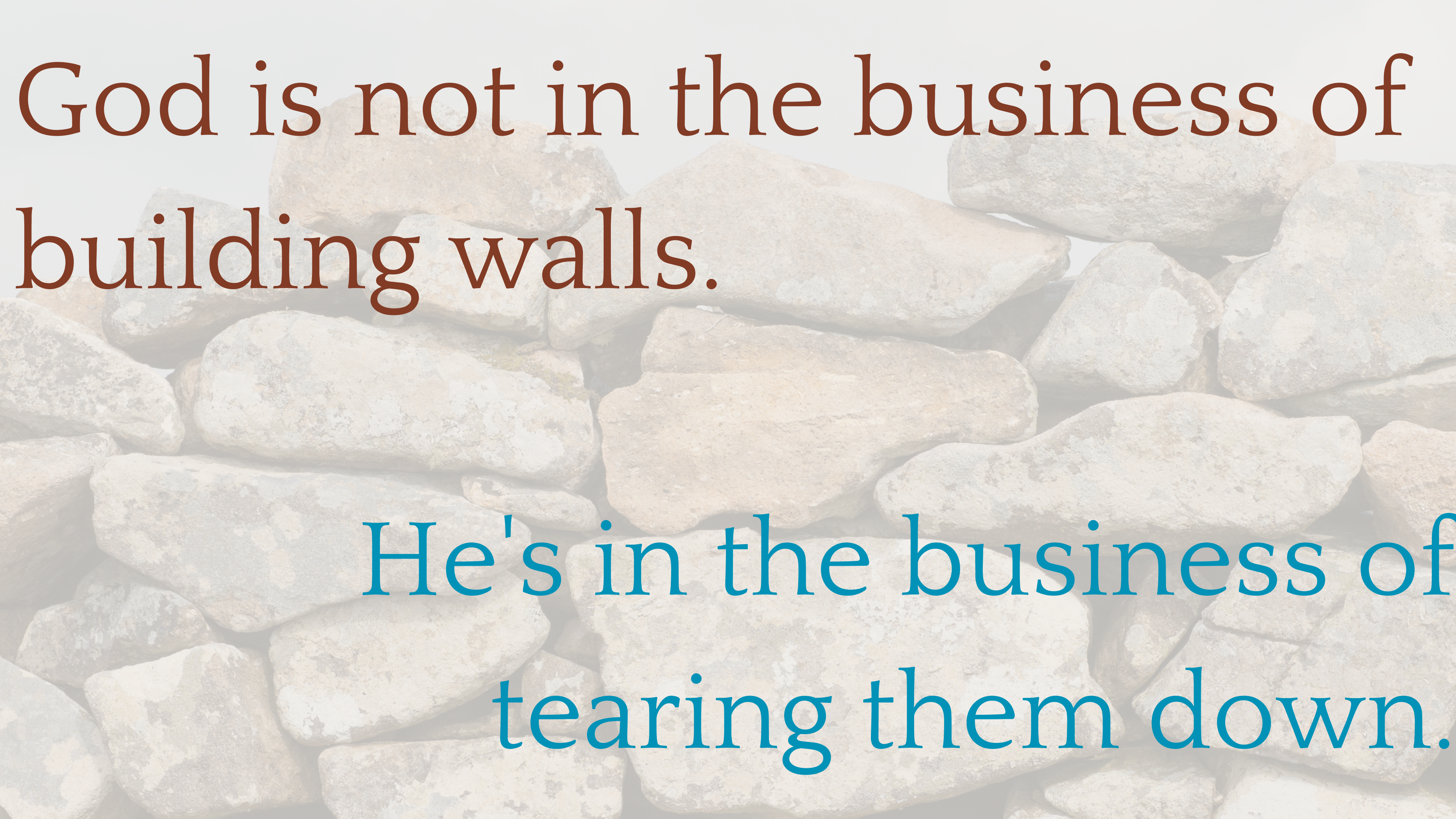

BUILDING WALLS BY TEARING THEM DOWN

The Kingwood Church of Christ exists to fearlessly make and grow committed disciples of Jesus.



God is not in the business of
building walls.

He's in the business of
tearing them down.

Hebrews 12

6 For the Lord disciplines the one He loves, and ...

Ezekiel 14

Then some of the leaders of Israel visited me, and while they were sitting with me, 2 this message came to me from the Lord: 3 “Son of man, these leaders have set up idols in their hearts. They have embraced things that will make them fall into sin. Why should I listen to their requests? 4 Tell them, ‘This is what the Sovereign Lord says: **The people of Israel have set up idols in their hearts and fallen into sin**, and then they go to a prophet asking for a message. So I, the Lord, will give them the kind of answer their great idolatry deserves.

Ezekiel 14

21 “Now this is what the Sovereign Lord says: **How terrible it will be when all four of these dreadful punishments fall upon Jerusalem—war, famine, wild animals, and disease—destroying all her people and animals.** 22 Yet there will be survivors, and they will come here to join you as exiles in Babylon. You will see with your own eyes how wicked they are, and then you will feel better about what I have done to Jerusalem. 23 When you meet them and see their behavior, you will understand that these things are not being done to Israel without cause. I, the Sovereign Lord, have spoken!”

Ezra 10

2 Then Shekariah son of Jehiel, one of the descendants of Elam, said to Ezra, “We have been unfaithful to our God by marrying foreign women from the peoples around us. But in spite of this, there is still hope for Israel. 3 Now let us make a covenant before our God to **send away all these women and their children**, in accordance with the counsel of my lord and of those who fear the commands of our God. Let it be done according to the Law.

Nehemiah 1

The words of Nehemiah son of Hakaliah:

In the month of Kislev in the twentieth year, while I was in the citadel of Susa, 2 Hanani, one of my brothers, came from Judah with some other men, and I questioned them about the Jewish remnant that had survived the exile, and also about Jerusalem.

3 They said to me, “**Those who survived the exile and are back in the province are in great trouble and disgrace.** The wall of Jerusalem is broken down, and its gates have been burned with fire.”

Nehemiah 13

6 But while all this was going on, I was not in Jerusalem, for in the thirty-second year of Artaxerxes king of Babylon I had returned to the king. Some time later I asked his permission 7 and came back to Jerusalem. Here I learned about the evil thing Eliashib had done in providing Tobiah a room in the courts of the house of God. 8 I was greatly displeased and threw all Tobiah's household goods out of the room. 9 I gave orders to purify the rooms, and then I put back into them the equipment of the house of God, with the grain offerings and the incense.

Nehemiah 13

10 I also learned that the portions assigned to the Levites had not been given to them, and that all the Levites and musicians responsible for the service had gone back to their own fields.

15 In those days I saw people in Judah treading winepresses on the **Sabbath** and bringing in grain and loading it on donkeys, together with wine, grapes, figs and all other kinds of loads. And they were bringing all this into Jerusalem on the **Sabbath**. Therefore I warned them against selling food on that day.

Nehemiah 13

18 Didn't your ancestors do the same things, so that our God brought all this calamity on us and on this city? Now you are stirring up more wrath against Israel by desecrating the Sabbath."

Nehemiah 13

25 I rebuked them and called curses down on them. I beat some of the men and pulled out their hair. I made them take an oath in God's name and said: "You are not to give your daughters in marriage to their sons, nor are you to take their daughters in marriage for your sons or for yourselves.

31 Remember **me** with favor, my God.



Though the wall was rebuilt
with stones

The stones in their hearts
were never removed

Two Walls that Must be Torn Down

1. The wall between us and God

Hebrews 4: 15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. 16 Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

Two Walls that Must be Torn Down

1. The wall between us and others

Ephesians 2: 14 For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the **dividing wall of hostility**

A background image of a pile of smooth, light-colored stones, possibly river stones, in shades of grey, tan, and beige. The stones are piled together, creating a textured, natural-looking surface.

Self-protection

Is not God's protection



When people build the
church, hearts turn to stone

When God builds the church
hearts turn to living stones

1 Peter 2

5 You also, like **living stones**, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

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