

The Problem with Ai

So often, the divine is
manifested
through our actions.

You can't love in the abstract

You must enact.

Isaiah 5: I will sing for the one I love
a song about his **vineyard**:

My loved one had a vineyard
on a fertile hillside.

2 He dug it up and cleared it of stones
and planted it with the choicest vines.

He built a watchtower in it
and cut out a **winepress** as well.

Then he looked for a crop of good grapes,
but it yielded only bad fruit.

Isaiah 5: 3 “Now you dwellers in Jerusalem and people of Judah,
judge between me and my vineyard.

4 What more could have been done for my vineyard
than I have done for it?

When I looked for good grapes,
why did it yield only bad?

Isaiah 5: 5 Now I will tell you

what I am going to do to my vineyard:

I will take away its hedge,

and it will be destroyed;

I will break down its wall,

and it will be trampled.

6 I will make it a wasteland,

neither pruned nor cultivated,

and briers and thorns will grow there.

I will command the clouds not to rain on it.”

**“Terrace”
(gan)**







Winepress



Watch Tower

The Value of a Wall

Protection

The Value of a Wall

Protection
Separation

The Value of a Wall

Protection
Separation
Beauty

The Value of a Wall

Protection

Separation

Beauty

God's glory

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Protection

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Sustained Community

1 Peter 2: 4 As you come to him, the living Stone—
rejected by humans but chosen by God and
precious to him— **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.

The Israelite community was
designed for one person to
watch their neighbors wall.

**“Terrace”
(gan)**



The Christian community was
designed for one person to
watch their neighbor's wall.

John 13: 34 “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. **35 By this everyone will know** that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

When should you notice and care
for your neighbor's wall?

When should you notice and care
for your neighbor's wall?

In times of suffering and loss

When should you notice and care
for your neighbor's wall?

When comfort is needed

When should you notice and care
for your neighbor's wall?

In times of spiritual warfare

Nehemiah 4: 12 Then the Jews who lived near them came and told us ten times over, “Wherever you turn, they will attack us.”

13 Therefore I stationed some of the people behind the lowest points of the wall **at the exposed places**, posting them by families, with their swords, spears and bows...16 From that day on, half of my men did the work, while the other half were equipped with spears, shields, bows and armor.

Luke 22: 31 “Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift all of you as wheat. **32 But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail.**

When should you notice and care
for your neighbor's wall?

When your neighbor is willfully
and defiantly sinning

Matthew 18: 15 “If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault...



AI explains why confronting sin is so important to the Christian community.

Joshua 7: But the Israelites were unfaithful in regard to the devoted things; Achan son of Karmi, the son of Zimri, the son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, took some of them. So the Lord's anger burned against Israel.

2 Now Joshua sent men from Jericho to **Ai**, which is near Beth Aven to the east of Bethel, and told them, "Go up and spy out the region." So the men went up and spied out Ai.

Joshua 7: 10 The Lord said to Joshua, “Stand up! What are you doing down on your face? If Israel has sinned; they have violated my covenant, which I commanded them to keep...

Joshua 7: 12 That is why the Israelites cannot stand against their enemies; they turn their backs and run because they have been made liable to destruction.

Joshua 7: 12 That is why the Israelites cannot stand against their enemies; they turn their backs and run because they have been made liable to destruction. **I will not be with you anymore unless you destroy whatever among you is devoted to destruction.**

A faith community is unique
and powerful
because God dwells within its
walls.

If “willful” sin is allowed to
persist

it creates an environment in
which God’s presence is not
welcome.

Proverbs 27: 5-6 Better is open rebuke than hidden love. **Faithful are the wounds of a friend . . .**

Galatians 6: I...if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should **restore him in a spirit of gentleness.** Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted

Approaching Others in Sin

Confront yourself first

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Confront with a loving heart

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Confront the most important
matters

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Keep the goal in mind

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