

Hedged In or Hemmed In?

*Since, my friend, you have revealed your deepest fear,
I sentence you to be exposed before your peers.
Tear down the wall!*

Pink Floyd, the Wall



There has been a lot of talk of walls this week.



In particular in Cyprus there have been rumours of Pink Floyd coming in May to perform The Wall. This would be a massive coup for this small island. Yet possible, considering Nicosia is still the last divided capital in Europe with it's own wall in Ledra Street, separating the Turkish Cypriot and Greek Cypriot communities. Could the government be thinking of bringing this wall down in May, Berlin style? You heard it here first.....

However any solution of the Cyprus Problem is unlikely to be imminent. Yes, sadly Cyprus is a divided island, although the Green Line has been open to two-way traffic since 2003. The wall, who is it protecting from whom?

Followers of the news will have seen the destruction of the wall between Gaza and Egypt, blown up by Palestinian factions after an embargo on Gaza placed by Israeli forces. One could not help be moved by the mass outpouring of people, almost as if a valve had been released on a pressure cooker. Livestock, fridges, heaters, wheelchairs, coffins, all were lifted over the barrier. Clearly the people of Gaza wanted to get out.



I myself have been through the controversial West Bank barrier. Indeed, I almost didn't get back through, and feared my 8 year-old son and I would be stranded in no man's land!!! This was after it was noted that I had no Israeli stamp of arrival, since I had asked for this to be on a separate piece of paper at the airport, which had then been taken by security. Fortunately our guide came back and persuaded the guards I was legitimate and not to be feared! Clearly the barrier is there to help Israel feel safe, secure and protected.

This opens up the idea of the purpose of walls. Are they there to imprison us or protect us?

Do we feel hedged in or hemmed in??

This is a bit like God's commandments. Do we feel restricted by them, hemmed in, restricted, unable to do what we wish? Or do we feel protected, hedged in, saved from the excesses of human nature and society, saved from the inevitable hurts?

I know which view I prefer.



"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him...." Romans 8,28

Disclaimer: Please note that the author or Limassol Church of Christ holds no political viewpoint on the matters above. They are complex matters requiring complex solutions. Rather we believe true transformation cannot come through political imposition but only from changing people.