Sermon: **With his own body he broke down the wall that separated them** **and kept them enemies** (Eph 2.14)

Samoan *fale*, with open walls. In Invercargill we need walls.

We use walls to mark boundaries (house plots), to give protection (banks), or keep warm.

The trouble is that walls easily become negative – a barrier between two groups (those in, those out). Hadrian’s Wall.

What we usually forget is that those behind the walls are affected by them.
Churches often, like the disciples on Easter Day, hide behind walls. So we must see walls positively.

Israel was God’s chosen people, everyone else was not. This gave Israel a structure and purpose, but also led to smugness (*we* are chosen) and defensiveness (*you* are *not* chosen). It created enemies.

Ephesians tells us that Christ (through his death) removed enmity, enabling non-Jews to become chosen also. TEXT.

As we saw last week we have been adopted by God as children.

Many Jews did not like this. It would be like giving anyone the code to a bank safe, and a key to get in!

At Lindisfarne we have keys to enter, some have a code for the alarm. A recent burglary showed why we need them. But this could produce some ghetto mentality – just like Jews in Jesus’ day.

Fact – we are God’s people. It is important that we know if we are.

But this must not lead to being smug – it is God’s choice, or being defensive – by creating walls.

Instead we are meant to be open and welcoming. TEXT. NB we give keys to those using the premises.

We are like hungry ones who know where the ‘bread’ is, but instead of keeping the ‘bread’ to ourselves we realise there is more than enough to go round. (God’s love is enough for all)

If those we welcome differ from us, this could be a source of God challenging and changing us! Disagreements are OK; nastiness in disagreements are not OK.

We’re God’s people; this creates walls to mark the boundaries – but they must be porous, full of doorways!

Not only do we let others in, but through them the Holy Spirit too.