

# PAPER WALLS

MOVING BEYOND  
THE EXCUSES  
THAT HOLD YOU BACK

**Because**  
Andy Stanley

**Scriptures:** Hebrews 12:1-2

**Idea:** There are things worth carrying with us from one year to the next, and there are things we should leave behind. Excuses should be abandoned and left behind.

**Graphic:** Title slide for *Paper Walls: Moving Beyond the Excuses That Hold You Back*

*[There are things worth carrying forward from one season to the next and one year to the next, like good habits and good friends. And there are things we should leave behind. For the next few weeks, we're going to talk about something we should definitely leave behind.]*

Excuses

*[Excuses are like paper walls.]*

**Visual:** Andy points to a large “brick wall” on stage made of paper. He will point to it several times throughout the message.

*[From a distance, they look impenetrable. They look and feel like...]*

Reasons

*[There's a reason I can't dunk a basketball or throw a 97-mph fastball. But there's no reason for me not to... well, I'm not sure I know you well enough to finish that statement. There are things I need to stop doing and others I need to start doing which I have reasons for. My reasons aren't good reasons; they're just excuses. Excuses easily become...]*

Beauses

*[We all have “because” we hide behind. Why don't you? Haven't you? Why do you always? Why do you keep on? Why don't you start? Why don't you finish? Why did you quit? Why do you stay? Why did you leave? Why don't you just tell her or him? “Because!” We have our reasons. But...]*

There's a fine line between a **reason** and an **excuse**.