A conflict that arose in a Baptist church in the 1890’s is still being felt today. The Mayfield County church in Kentucky had only two deacons—and they were always disagreeing or arguing about something. One of the deacons thought it would be a nice gesture to place a wooden peg on the back wall of the church so the pastor could hang his hat. When the other deacon noticed it, he was outraged. “How dare someone put a peg in the wall without consulting me!” he roared.

The church members got involved and took sides. Eventually things got so heated that the church split. Today, more than a hundred years later, residents of Mayfield still refer to the churches as the “Peg Baptist” and the “Anti-Peg Baptist.”

Conflicts in churches happened long before the 1800’s. As we studied this week, the early church had its share of conflicts. They struggled with many of the same issues we struggle with today. Paul wanted to reach past the conflicts and into the hearts of the members, so he offered a one-word solution: LOVE. He told them that love is more important than prophecies, tongues, and knowledge. These will pass away. But love? It lasts forever.

How might 1 Corinthians 13 apply to today’s churches, if we truly lived with love for each other? How would it strengthen our worship each Sabbath? Let’s imagine.

- *Love is patient:* when someone on the church board voices a different opinion.
- *Love is kind:* when an elderly member needs help and your own life is busy.
- *It does not envy:* when the nominating committee chooses someone else.
- *It is not proud:* even when you are able to give a large offering.
- *It does not dishonor others:* when tempted to criticize the pastor’s sermon.
• **It is not self-seeking:** when some members want to include a different style of music.
• **It is not easily angered:** when a parent complains about your Sabbath School leadership.
• **It keeps no record of wrongs:** when that large family never brings food to potlucks.
• **Love does not delight in evil:** because you hate to believe the bad about anyone.
• **But rejoices with the truth:** because you are always looking for the good in others.
• **It always protects:** by putting a stop to church gossip.
• **Always trusts:** by being vulnerable with your small group members.
• **Always hopes:** by believing that your church really can become what God wants it to be.
• **Always perseveres:** by not walking out the church doors when things get tough on the inside.

Paul wrote at the end of 1 Corinthians 13 that he “put the ways of childhood behind me.” He had matured spiritually, which affected how he treated others. He could say with certainty, “And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.”

~nc

Additional Resource: You Tube

1. Sermon Central

**Dear Contemporary Comments Recipient:**

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There are many more of you that saw the note and then got busy doing something else and failed to sign up for Ministry Edge our new Facebook application.

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If you have any challenges accessing and bookmarking our application, here is a short video to walk you through it.

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Thanks so much,

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