



## Agape Love

This week as I prayed regarding writing this note, one passage came to my mind over and over again – 1 Corinthians 13:4-8. A story about a congregation in another state splintering weighed heavily on me.

*<sup>4</sup> Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. <sup>5</sup> It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. <sup>6</sup> Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. <sup>7</sup> It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. <sup>8</sup> Love never fails... (NIV)*

The *Agape* love used in this passage is concerned with the greatest good of another. *Agape* love is a choice not born just out of emotions and feelings, but from our will aided by God. *Agape* requires faithfulness, commitment, and sacrifice without expecting anything in return. Much easier said than done.

A related passage is *My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.* ~ John 15:12-13 (NIV) Yet, we find things about which to be angry with each other.

Satan aims to divide us -- this is how he wins. He wants us to disagree. He wants us to want our own way. Thank God we have God's spirit in us that helps us love as God loves.

- Keith Coble