

## Lovers or Fighters?

*by John E. Phelan Jr, p. 35*

**Theologian John E. Phelan Jr. explores the balance in the Protestant church between living the love and grace of God and battling for truth.**

1. Martin Luther is identified as an example of balancing the “lover/fighter” tension in the Protestant church. Can you think of anyone in either your own congregation or in the church at large who does a good job of balancing the two extremes?
2. John E. Phelan Jr. refers to the proliferation of denominations as evidence of the fighting that has taken place in the Protestant church. Where do you still see battles taking place among Protestants?
3. Is it naïve to believe that all we need to do is share the love of Jesus? Why or why not?
4. How have you seen the political differences in today’s culture affect the church?
5. Phelan states that the Covenant Church has aspired to “willingly live with difference.” What differences have you learned to live with in your home, neighborhood, relationships, or workplace?