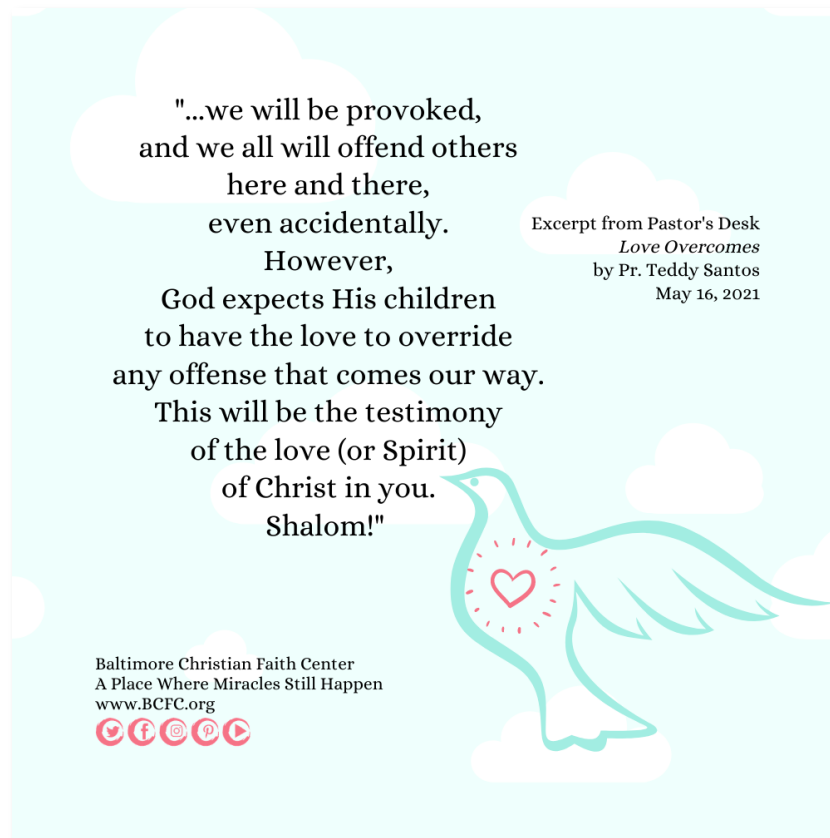


LOVE OVERCOMES

Pastor's Desk – May 16, 2021



1Corinthians 13:5 NKJV *"does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil"*

It is interesting to see that **The Message Bible** interprets the text like this: *"Doesn't force itself on others, Isn't always 'me first,' Doesn't fly off the handle, Doesn't keep score of the sins of others."*

Notice that the **Revised English Bible** deciphers it: *"Never rude; love is never selfish, never quick to take offense. Love keeps no score of wrongs."*

In **The Amplified Bible**, the way it is explained is: *"It is not conceited (arrogant and inflated with pride); it is not rude (unmannerly) and does not act unbecomingly. Love (God's love in us) does not insist on its own rights or its own way, for it is not self-seeking; it is not touchy or fretful or resentful; it takes no account of the evil done to it [it pays no attention to a suffered wrong]."*

These translations plainly capture the essence of why so many are so easily swayed from mere annoyance to resentment and then; bitter anger, which in turn prompts retaliation. These progressions can even divide blood brothers! The proof is in **Proverbs 18:19 NKJV** "*A brother offended is harder to win than a strong city, And contentions are like the bars of a castle.*"

Understand that this verse does not negate the fact that offenses will come. Our Lord Jesus said this. It can begin from hurt feelings, growing into a mild animosity, and then bent on the temptations to getting even through a flaming temper - if allowed. Nevertheless, we can defeat it all because love "is not provoked" or exasperated.

Yes, we will be provoked, and we all will offend others here and there, even accidentally. However, God expects His children to have the love to override any offense that comes our way. This will be the testimony of the love (or Spirit) of Christ in you. Shalom!

At his service,
Pr. Teddy Santos