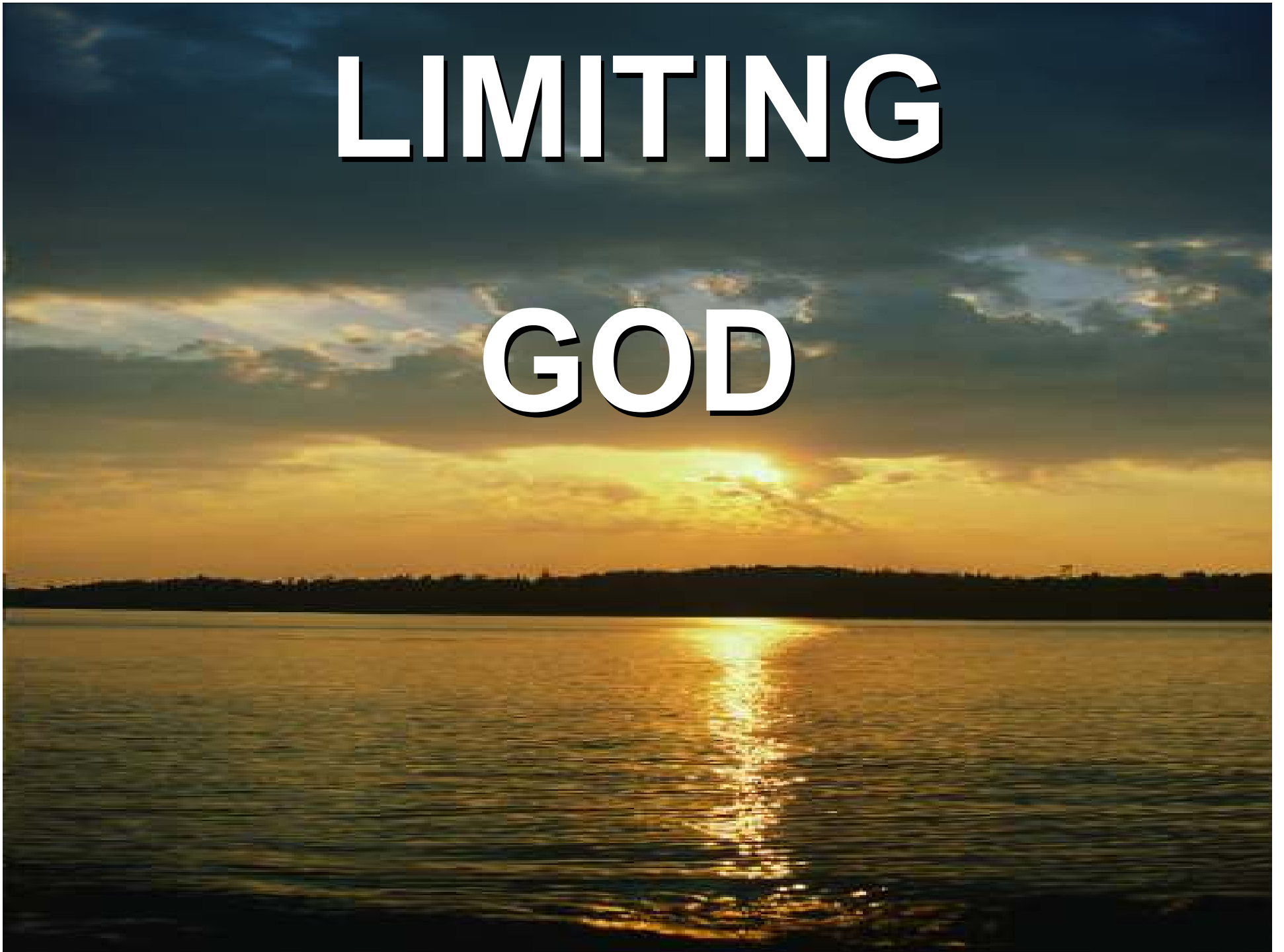


LIMITING

GOD



The Bible teaches that man is a free moral
being of choice.

Adam and Eve in the garden . Genesis 3

Joshua made this clear.

Joshua 24:15

And if it seem evil to you to serve the Lord, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the God of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.

The fact that man is a free being of choice has been true all through history and is still true today.

God wants to save and bless fallen man.

I Timothy 2:3-4

For this is good and acceptable in the sight of
God our Savior,

Who desires all men to be saved and come to
the knowledge of the truth

God will not save us against our will.

Man must cooperate with God.

Ephesians 2:8

For by grace you have been saved through
faith.

The theory of saving a person against their will
is wrong.

Some want God to help them only so far, and then they place a boundary or a limit.

Israel is a good example.

Psalms 78:41-42

Yes, again and again they tempted God, and limited the Holy One of Israel.

They did not remember His power: the day when He redeemed them from the enemy.

Israel limited God.

Can We Limit God Today?

The individual can.

With regards to salvation.

We already noticed Ephesians 2:8

We are saved by grace through faith.

Philippians 2:12

Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.

We have to do our part.

When we will not and do not comply with the steps of salvation, we are limiting God.

We need to:

Believe that Jesus is Christ the son of God.

Repent of our sins.

Confess Jesus as the Christ the son of God.

Be baptized to have our sins washed away.

Along the same line, we limit God when we are not faithful to Him after becoming a Christian.

If you are not a Christian, you're not only limiting God in regards to your salvation, but you are also limiting Him in blessing you.

Ephesians 1:3 tells us that all “spiritual blessings” are in Christ.

We limit God in regards to prayer when we ask doubtfully or ask with wrong motives.

James 1:6-7

But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord.

James 4:3

You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions.

The church can limit God.

When we fail to carry out the great
commission we limit God.

Mark 16:15-16

Go into all the world and preach the gospel to
every creature

He who believes and is baptized will be
saved; but he who does not believe will be
condemned.

Churches limit God when:

We fail in stewardship (no finances to do the work of the church).

We permit sin in the camp.

As the church we are suppose to be lights to world.

Churches limit God:

When we lack in preparation for good works
(we make no plans and we set no goals).

By division.

I Corinthians 1:10-11

Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.

For it has been declared to me concerning you, my brethren, by those Chloe's household, that there are contentions among you.

Why Do We Limit God?

Some do it out of ignorance.

Mark 7:7-9

“And in vain they worship Me, teaching as doctrine the commandments of men. For laying aside the commandment of God, you hold fast the tradition of men.” He said to them, “All too well you reject the commandment of God, that you may keep your tradition.

Some limit God by rebellion.

Jeremiah 6:16-17

Thus says the Lord: “Stand in the ways and see, and ask for the old paths, where the good way is, and walk in it; then you will find rest for your souls. But they said, ‘We will not walk in it.’ Also, I set watchmen over you, saying, ‘Listen to the sound of the trumpet!’ But they said, ‘We will not listen.’”

Some limit God because they lack courage.

They lack courage at home, on the job, and when they are out with their friends. Whatever they do and wherever they go, they lack courage.

I Corinthians 16:13

Be watchful, stand firm in your faith, be courageous, be strong.

Some limit God because they lack love.

John 14:15

If you love me you will keep my
commandments.

Some limit God because they deny that there
is a God.

Psalms 14:1

The fool has said in his heart there is no God.
They are corrupt, they have done abominable
works, there is none who does good.

What Are The Results Of Limiting God?

It provokes God's wrath.

Psalms 78:58

For they have provoked Him to anger with their high places, and moved Him to jealousy with their carved images.

God has never been pleased with disobedience.

Adam and Eve, Nadab and Abihu, King Saul, Jonah, the nations of Israel and Judah, and others were disobedient to God and they all had to suffer the consequences.

What about us today?

II Thessalonians 1:7-9

And to give you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels

In flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power.

When we limit God it invites destruction.

Psalms 78:62

He also gave His people over to the sword,
and was furious with His inheritance.

II Thessalonians 1:9

These shall be punished with everlasting
destruction.

Limiting God causes us to miss our purpose in
life.

Ecclesiastes 12:13

Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter:
Fear God and keep His commandments for
this is the whole duty of man.

Ephesians 2:8-10

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God,

not of works, lest anyone should boast.

For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

Limiting God results in the loss of souls.

Not only yours, but others also.

Other souls can and will be touched if we allow
God to have His full affect on us.

A sunset over a body of water with a city skyline in the distance. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a golden glow across the sky and reflecting on the water. The sky is filled with soft, golden clouds. The water is dark, with the sun's reflection creating a bright path. In the distance, a city skyline is visible against the horizon.

Are you guilty of limiting God?

From saving you?

**From using you in His work and blessing
you?**

**Our attitude should be that of Isaiah in
chapter 6:8**

**Also I heard the voice of the Lord saying:
“Whom shall I send, and who will go for
Us?” Then I said, “Here am I, send me.”**

Given by David Hamlin at the Hollister Missouri
church of Christ on 10-29-06 pm
www.hollisterchurchofchrist.org