THE REALM OF DIVINE LIMITATION

Col. 3:17; Matt. 17:5; 28:18; Tit. 1:2

Introduction:

1. We live in a day when man does not want any limitations in his life.
2. Men do not want to be limited in the realm of religion in any respect—they want to do as they please.
3. Many churches of Christ, and members within churches, do not want any limitations in religion.
4. These passages in our text limit God's people to the authority of Christ.

I. GOD AND CHRIST HAVE NECESSARY LIMITATIONS

1. They cannot lie -- Tit. 1:2; Heb. 6:18
2. They cannot break a promise -- II Pet. 3:9
3. They cannot be unfaithful -- II Tim. 2:13
4. They cannot change the way of saving men -- Rom. 1:16 - 17; Matt. 28:19 - 20
5. They will not do for man what man can do for himself -- Eph. 2:8; James 1:27; 2:24; Phil. 2:12

II. GOD HAS PLACED LIMITATIONS UPON MAN

2. Man cannot do for God what God has done.
   (1) We mean by this -- man's attempts to help God by unlawful means -- Matt. 7:21 - 23
   (2) Moses smote the rock instead of speaking to it -- Num. 20:8
   (3) Men today -- denominations, changing the worship, program of work, plan of salvation
3. Man cannot do for another man what he must do for himself
   (1) Mormons -- Baptism for the dead
   (2) Catholics -- Pray for the dead
   (3) Gal. 6:5; Phil. 2:12

III. IN RELIGIOUS MATTERS, MAN TODAY IS LIMITED TO THE AUTHORITY OF CHRIST -- Matt. 28:18

1. Man cannot use the law of Moses or the Old Testament for authority today -- Matt. 17:5; Col. 2:14; Gal. 5:4
2. II Tim. 3:16 - 17; Matt. 28:18 - 20; Rom. 1:16; Mark 16:15 - 16; Eph. 1:22 - 23

IV. THINGS THE AUTHORITY OF CHRIST HAS LIMITED

1. BAPTISM
   (1) The Subject -- Mark. 16:16; Acts 2:38 (Infants, infidels, and dead people are not subjects)
   (2) The Act -- Rom. 6:3 - 4 (Not sprinkling and pouring)
   (3) The Purpose -- Acts 2:38; 3:19 (Not because one has been saved)
2. MAN'S MORAL LIFE IS LIMITED

(1) God limited man to one woman in marriage -- I Cor. 7:2; Heb. 13:4
(2) Tit. 2: 11 - 12; Col. 3: 5 - 7; Gal. 5: 19 - 21

3. MAN'S WORSHIP IS LIMITED

(1) John 4:24
(2) Singing -- Eph. 5:19
(3) Prayer -- Acts 2: 42
(4) Lord's Supper -- Acts 20:7
(5) Giving -- I Cor. 16: 1 - 2
(6) Teaching -- I Cor. 4:6

4. THE CHRISTIAN'S FELLOWSHIP IS LIMITED -- Eph. 5:11; II Cor. 6: 14 - 17; I Cor. 5: 1 - 5

5. THE BENEVOLENCE to be PRACTICED BY CHURCHES OF CHRIST HAS BEEN LIMITED BY CHRIST -- just has He has limited Baptism, morals and worship.

(1) Lazy people are not to be supported -- II Thess. 3: 6 - 14
(2) Widows who have children or nephews are not the charge of the church -- I Tim. 5: 4, 8, 16; Eph. 6: 1 - 3
(3) Widows living in sinful pleasure are not the charge of the church -- I Tim. 5: 6, 15
(4) Younger widows refuse -- I Tim. 5:11
(5) Widows indeed who are the charge of the church have qualifications -- I Tim. 5:5; 5: 9 - 10; 5:16
(6) The church is limited to helping Christians in adversity -- Acts 2:44 - 45; 4: 32 - 34; 6: 1 - 6; I Cor. 16: 1 - 2; II Cor. 8: 1 - 4; 9:1; Rom . 15: 25 - 26; I Tim. 5:16

CONCLUSION:

1. The Bible teaches that we are limited -- I Cor. 4: 6; II John 9

2. Those who try to do away with divine limitations will lose their souls in hell -- Rev. 22: 18 - 19

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