



table talk

5/24/26

“Limiting God (Scene 1)”

In our last study, we gave an overview to make the case that finite humans can actually hinder the Infinite God, thereby effectively ‘binding the Hands of God’, as the writer testified to in Psalm 78.

Psalm 78:56-58: But they kept testing and rebelling against God Most High. They did not obey his laws. They turned back and were as faithless as their parents. They were as undependable as a crooked bow. They angered God by building shrines to other gods; they made him jealous with their idols.

The case is made stronger and clearer by investigating five examples in Scripture:

1. We may put limitations on God by our unwillingness.

- “Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and **you were not willing.**” Luke 13:34
- The Master himself pointed out that even the elite religious leaders were not confused, misguided or intellectually insufficient. They were the best and the brightest, arguably the most educated generation of Israel ever. Their problem was simply that they were unwilling to come to Jesus because He alone could set the terms. “I am the way, the truth and the life. No man comes to The Father but by Me.”
- Paul recognized this in the opening chapter of Romans when he declared mankind guilty of reshaping God into a deity they had designed. They wanted a God who was ‘more controllable,’ ‘more approachable,’ ‘more reasonable,’ and ‘more easily understood.’ But, professing themselves to be wise, they became fools.

2. We may put limitations on God by our unconcern.

- “I correct and discipline everyone I love. **So be diligent and**

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turn from your indifference. “Look! I stand at the door and knock. If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in, and we will share a meal together as friends. Those who are victorious will sit with me on my throne, just as I was victorious and sat with my Father on his throne. “Anyone with ears to hear must listen to the Spirit and understand what he is saying to the churches.” Revelation 3:19-22

- James reminds us that we must be “doers” of the Word, and not “hearers” only. On the night we brought our first son home from the hospital, I sat in my “prayer chair” and cried as I kissed that precious newborn over and over and thanked God for the arrival of this little one in our home. We had prayed and waited for so long! My prayer, among others, went like this: “Oh Lord, oh God Almighty, please help me to live for You so well that it will cause this little boy to want to know you and serve you because I took serving you seriously! Help me to never do anything that will make him doubt You! Oh Lord, let me take you so seriously that Jeremy Samuel Chitty will think Abe Lincoln and George Washington were outlaws compared to his Daddy!”
- One preacher said, “The way many Christians live is like a big yawn in the face of someone trying to kiss you. Your apparent unconcern makes it almost certain the kiss will not be delivered.”

3. We may put limitations on God by our unreasonableness.

- **“Come now, and let us reason together,”** says the Lord, “Though your sins are as scarlet, they will be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, They will be like wool. “If you consent and obey, You will eat the best of the land; “But if you refuse and rebel, You will be devoured by the sword.” Truly, the mouth of the Lord has spoken. Isaiah 1:18-20
- Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. Isaiah 55:7
- Everyone who comes to Christ will ultimately need to move past the “offense of the mind.” Our salvation is not something that we receive through understanding alone. It is a gift received by Believing. What appears reasonable to us is often far different from what God deems reasonable. Remember the good message Isaiah gave to Israel - “My ways are not your ways. My thoughts are not your thoughts, says The Lord.” The advice of Mary to the servants in Cana is still good advice today: **“Whatever He says to you, do it!”**

More next week!

I love you,
Pastor Stephen