

# *Limitations in Our Relationships*

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*A*s members of the Body of Christ, ours is a *Many-Membered Christ* bond. Ours is an “*in Christ*” relationship. It is a union that is Divine.

Because we did not create this heavenly union, we do not have the authority to dictate or alter its operations.

Our Father has placed “boundaries” as to how we are to conduct our relationships with each other.

These boundaries are not man-made; they are God-made. In fact, He has actually filled our relationships with limitations!

Here are some of our limitations:

## **LIMITED FROM**

- We are limited from judging each other (Romans 14:13).
- We are limited from being puffed up against each other (I Corinthians 4:6).
- We are limited from going to law with each other (I Corinthians 6:7).
- We are limited from provoking each other (Galatians 5:26).
- We are limited from deceiving each other (Colossians 3:9).

- We are limited from anger (Colossians 4:8).
- We are limited from wrath (Colossians 4:8).
- We are limited from malice (Colossians 4:8).
- We are limited from bitterness (Ephesians 4:31).
- We are limited from clamor (Ephesians 4:31).
- We are limited from doubtful disputations (Romans 14:1).
- We are limited from divisions and offences (Romans 16:17).

### LIMITED TO

- We are limited to edification (I Corinthians 14:26).
- We are limited to mercy (Colossians 4:12).
- We are limited to kindness (Colossians 4:12).
- We are limited to meekness (Colossians 4:12).
- We are limited to longsuffering (Colossians 4:12).
- We are limited to forbearance (Colossians 4:13).
- We are limited to love (Colossians 4:14).

The point here is that Paul's epistles are filled with limitations on our relationships. Why all these limitations? Because our relationships are "*in Christ*." We are members together of "*His Body*." Hence He, being the Head, can set such limitations.

Therefore, by way of illustration, I cannot say nor do *anything* that I want to my fellow Body members. We are constrained by the boundary of Christ's love.

*"For the love of Christ constraineth us ..."* (II Corinthians 5:14a).

Taken from the *Bible Student's Notebook*<sup>™</sup>, a weekly Bible study publication available in two formats (electronic and printed)

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