Limited Atonement

The key question - is everyone saved?

No
Then redemption must be limited by something since not everyone is saved.

Yes
This is the heresy of universalism – no hell.
This is not an option for the Christian.

It must be limited either by:
a) numbers or
b) God's power to save.

Atonement limited by numbers, i.e. restricted to the elect only.

Calvinism
Atonement is specific (particular). Jesus only dies for those God elected.

This is a limitation of the number of people saved. It teaches that God achieves that he purposed.

In this proposal God is honoured.

Atonement limited by God's power to save, i.e. men restrict themselves.

Arminianism
Atonement is universal but men choose not to take it. God wills and desires all to be saved.

This is a limitation of God's power to save. Jesus died for all but is unable to save all he died for. Salvation is potential but not effectual ('sufficient for all but only efficient for some').

God is dishonoured. He tries to do something but fails in his objective. Further, the blood of Jesus is wasted. God is thus imperfect and inefficient.

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