

To Infinity and Beyond

The Omnipresence of God

A Definition

- Omnipresence = everywhere present; fills all space
- Immensity = infinity of God with reference to space; unlimited with respect to space; not bound by space
- Grudem: "God does not have size or spatial dimensions and is present at every point of space with his whole being, yet God acts differently in different places."
- Reymond: "God transcends all spatial limitations and is immediately present in every part of his creation, or (what amounts to the same thing) that everything and everybody are immediately in his presence."

What It's Not

- Not present everywhere physically
- Doesn't leave one place to go to another
- Not identical with space

I. God is not bound by space

- Gen. 1:1; John 1:3 – all things were made by Him
- Deut. 10:14 – "Behold, to the LORD your God belong heaven and the highest heavens, the earth and all that is in it."
- 1 Kings 8:27 – "But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain You, how much less this house which I have built!"
- 2 Chron. 2:6 – "But who is able to build a house for Him, for the heavens and the highest heavens cannot contain Him? So who am I, that I should build a house for Him, except to burn *incense* before Him?"

I. God is not bound by space

- Is. 66:1-2 – Thus says the LORD, "Heaven is My throne and the earth is My footstool. Where then is a house you could build for Me? And where is a place that I may rest? 2 "For My hand made all these things, Thus all these things came into being," declares the LORD. "But to this one I will look, To him who is humble and contrite of spirit, and who trembles at My word."
- Acts 7:48-49 – "However, the Most High does not dwell in houses made by human hands; as the prophet says: 49 'HEAVEN IS MY THRONE, AND EARTH IS THE FOOTSTOOL OF MY FEET; WHAT KIND OF HOUSE WILL YOU BUILD FOR ME?' says the Lord, 'OR WHAT PLACE IS THERE FOR MY REPOSE?'"

II. God fills all space

- Ps. 139:7-10
- Jer. 23:23-24 – "Am I a God who is near," declares the LORD, "And not a God far off? 24 "Can a man hide himself in hiding places So I do not see him?" declares the LORD. "Do I not fill the heavens and the earth?" declares the LORD."
- Jonah 1:3, 10 – Jonah rose up...to flee from the presence of the Lord
- Acts 17:27-28 – He is not far from each one of us; 28 for in Him we live and move and exist

III. God chooses certain parts of space to manifest Himself.

- Gen. 3 – he walked in the garden
- Gen. 18:16-35 – the form of a man
- Gen. 32:30 – The Angel of the Lord
- Ex. 3:1-3 – The Burning Bush
- Ex. 14:20; 16:10; 34:5; 40:34 – The Glory Cloud or Shekinah
- Matt. 6:9; Rev. 21:1-3 – Heaven

IV. God's presence accomplishes various purposes

- To sustain
 - Col. 1:17 -- He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.
 - Heb. 1:3 -- He ... upholds all things by the word of His power

IV. God's presence accomplishes various purposes

- To judge
 - Pro. 15:29 -- The LORD is far from the wicked, But He hears the prayer of the righteous.
 - Is. 64:1-2 – Oh, that You would rend the heavens *and* come down, That the mountains might quake at Your presence-- 2. As fire kindles the brushwood, as fire causes water to boil-- To make Your name known to Your adversaries, *That* the nations may tremble at Your presence!
 - Jer. 23:39 --"Therefore behold, I will surely forget you and cast you away from My presence, along with the city which I gave you and your fathers.
 - Jam. 4:8 – Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

IV. God's presence accomplishes various purposes

- To bless
 - Ex. 33:3, 14-15
 - **1 Sam. 4:4** --So the people sent to Shiloh, and from there they carried the ark of the covenant of the LORD of hosts who sits above the cherubim.
 - **2 Kings 13:23** – But the LORD was gracious to them and had compassion on them and turned to them because of His covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and would not destroy them or cast them from His presence until now.
 - **John 14:23** -- Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our abode with him.
 - **Rom. 8:9-10**

Clarifications

- God is not diffused throughout space
- God is not present in the same degree and manner everywhere

The Ramifications

- Reminds us that the entire material universe is sustained each moment by the power of an omnipresent God (Acts 17:28)
- Protects us from thinking that God lives in the box of the church building; there is no special place of worship that gives special access to God (Heb. 10:19-22)

The Ramifications

- Should terrorize unbelievers
- Underscores God's promise that His abiding presence will always be with the Christian to bring spiritual blessing (Gen. 28:15; 39:3-4; Matt. 28:20; John 14:23; Rom. 8:9-10).
- Creates a purifying, sanctifying influence for the believer

The Ramifications

- Explains what happens when we sin (Ps. 51:11; Is. 59:2)
- Provides a continuing source of comfort (Ps. 46:1)
- Highlights that Christ is in a unique way in God's presence representing us (Heb. 9:24).
- Teaches that in our eternity we will experience the special manifestation of God's presence (Ps. 16:11; Jude 24).