

SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY



LAST TIME

- Time
- How Does God Interact With It?

GOD'S OMNIPRESENCE

- God's relationship to space
- Omni= all
- Presence= being somewhere

SCRIPTURAL SUPPORT

- God is everywhere present
 - No matter where, we will find God's presence

Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence? If I ascend to heaven, you are there! If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there! If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me. If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light about me be night," even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is bright as the day, for darkness is as light with you.

PSALM 139:7-12

ESV

“Am I a God at hand, declares the Lord, and not a God far away? Can a man hide himself in secret places so that I cannot see him? declares the Lord. Do I not fill heaven and earth? declares the Lord.

JEREMIAH 23:23-24

ESV

SCRIPTURAL SUPPORT

➤ God does not dwell in a localized place

“But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold,
heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain you;
how much less this house that I have built!

1 KINGS 8:27

ESV

The God who made the world and everything in it,
being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in
temples made by man,
for “ ‘In him we live and move and have our being’;

ACTS 17:24, 28

ESV

THE DANGER OF -ISMS

- Pantheism-
 - Everything is God, God is the universe
- Panentheism-
 - The world is part of God

SYSTEMATIC SUMMARY

- Two opposite errors
 - We should not think of God being localized in any earthly spot
 - We should not think of God being localized in Heaven

SO...

- Does God transcend space?
- Is God everywhere throughout space?

Similar problem to time

GOD TRANSCENDS SPACE?

- This would mean that God does not exist in space at all
- He is not a spatial being

EVERYWHERE THROUGHOUT SPACE?

- This would mean that God exists everywhere in space
- But not as “ether”
 - Universe is finite
 - Not fully present everywhere

EVERYWHERE THROUGHOUT SPACE?

- This would mean that God exists everywhere in space
 - More like our body and soul
 - But NOT a part of God
 - God does not send things through the world like we do
 - Immediate causation

GOD'S IMMENSITY

- God is so immense that He fills all of creation and is therefore present at every point

GOD TRANSCENDS SPACE?

- God is not in space in any literal way
- An infinite mind that is conscious of and causally active at every point in space
- Trans-spatial or non-spatial being

REGARDLESS OF THE STANCE...

- There is no place to which God's knowledge and power do not extend.
- His knowledge and power extend to every point in space.

A WORD ON HELL

- God is present in Hell, if he is omnipresent
- He is even causally active there, sustaining its existence
- But he is not there relationally or personally
- Relational rupture

APPLICATION OF OMNIPRESENCE

- We can contact God at any location
- We should practice the presence of God
- We are never alone

WE CAN CONTACT GOD AT ANY LOCATION

- God is never out of reach
- God is never too far away
- God cannot be away from us

PRACTICE THE PRESENCE OF GOD

- Simply recognizing that God is with us
- We cannot hide from Him
- We do not need to pray “...be with so-and-so”

WE ARE NEVER ALONE

- We can depend on Him always
- There is never a time that He is not with us

And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

MATTHEW 28:20

ESV

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

PSALM 23:4

ESV

IMMUTABILITY

- God cannot change
- A foundational important attribute

IMMUTABILITY: SCRIPTURAL DATA

- Unchangeable in His existence
- Unchanging in His character
- Unchangeable in His faithfulness
- Unchangeable in His wisdom

but you are the same, and your years have no end.

PSALM 102:27

ESV

“For I the Lord do not change; therefore you,
O children of Jacob, are not consumed.

MALACHI 3:6

ESV

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.

JAMES 1:17

ESV

Forever, O Lord, your word is firmly fixed in the heavens. Your faithfulness endures to all generations; you have established the earth, and it stands fast.

PSALM 119:89-90

ESV

So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose, he guaranteed it with an oath, so that by two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to hold fast to the hope set before us.

HEBREWS 6:17-18

ESV

The counsel of the Lord stands forever, the
plans of his heart to all generations.

PSALM 33:11

ESV

DECEMBER 16TH

- Read:
 - Defenders 2-3- 10: Doctrine of God, pg. 70-76
(Infinite: Immutability)

QUESTIONS?

