

Some persons have confused Theism with Pantheism. Because Theism holds that God is omnipresent, they think that it is pantheistic. But although both Theism and Pantheism hold that God is present everywhere and in everything, Theism holds that God is distinct from every created being, whereas Pantheism holds that God and created reality are identical.

Charles Hodge expresses the view of classic Christian Theism when he says:

Everywhere in the Old and in the New Testament, God is represented as a spiritual Being, without form, invisible, whom no man hath seen or can see; dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto, and full of glory; as not only the creator, and preserver, but as the governor of all things; as everywhere present, and everywhere imparting life, and securing order; present in every blade of grass, yet guiding Arcturus in his course, marshalling the stars as a host, calling them by their names; present also in every human soul, giving it understanding, endowing it with gifts, working on it both to will and to do. The human heart is in his hands; and He turneth it even as the rivers of water are turned. Wherever, throughout the universe, there is evidence of mind in material causes, there, according to Scriptures, is God, controlling and guiding those causes to the accomplishment of his wise designs. He is in all, and over all things; yet essentially different from all, being over all, independent, and infinitely exalted. This immensity and omnipresence of God, therefore, is the ubiquity of the divine essence, and consequently of the divine power, wisdom, and goodness. As the birds in the air and the fish in the sea, so also are we always surrounded and sustained by God. It is thus that He is infinite in his being, without absorbing all created beings into his own essence, but sustaining all in their individual subsistence, and in the exercise of their own powers.

- Charles Hodge, *Systematic Theology*
(Washington, Scribner, 1871), Volume 1, pp
384-385.

d. Biblical teaching concerning God's omnipresence

I Kings 8:27 (II Chronicles 2:6) -- "But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain Thee, how much less this house which I have built?"

This is part of Solomon's prayer at the dedication of the recently-completed temple. Although the temple was spacious (for Solomon's time) and beautifully adorned, Solomon expressed a