

Thus to say that God is present in every bit of space and occupies the same space that things and created beings occupy is not to affirm Pantheism, so long as we do not make God and the created universe one and the same being.

Perhaps our understanding of the matter could be aided if we were to think of the physical realm and the spiritual realm occupying the same space. The physical realm or dimension is that which we can see with our physical eyes. The spiritual realm or dimension is that which we can "see" with the eyes of faith (faith as a believing response to a revelation from God). Both occupy the same space. Spirits are not excluded or pushed out of the space that a physical object or body is occupying.

Finite spirits such as human spirits, angelic spirits, and demonic spirits, occupy only part of space at a time, but the Holy Spirit occupies all of space at the same time. He fills the heavens and the earth with His presence!

The implications of this great truth for the concept of "indwelling" are extremely important!

In the sense of space, the Holy Spirit is always present in every human being's body, including that of the unbeliever! In the sense of space, the Holy Spirit is just as present in the unregenerate person's body as in the regenerate person's body. And this has always been true, from the moment of mankind's creation in Adam to the present moment!

For the Holy Spirit to indwell a human being, then, cannot mean simply to be present in the space a believer's body occupies, since the Holy Spirit occupies all space. And thus if "indwelling" is taken to mean that when a person is an unbeliever, the Holy Spirit is "outside" his or her body, but when a person becomes a believer, the Holy Spirit comes "Inside" his or her body, that concept of indwelling is of necessity erroneous and should be discarded! The fact is that the Holy spirit, as far as space is concerned, is "Inside" the body of every human being, as well as outside it! And this includes both believers and unbelievers! Since the Holy Spirit fills all space and is present everywhere, He is present in both believers and unbelievers.

What, then, can "indwelling" possibly mean? Have we drained the word of all meaningful content? Or is there some residue of significant meaning?

Surely there must be some sort of difference between the way the Spirit of God is present in the unbeliever and the way He is present in the believer!

Let us affirm that there must be a difference, and a very important one. But the difference is not that the Holy Spirit is absent from one person's body and present in the other's!

The difference appears to be one of personal relationship. The Holy Spirit sustains a relationship to the regenerate man that is radically different from the relationship which He sustains to the unregenerate man. The Holy Spirit is savingly related to the believer, but is not savingly related to the non-believer.