

4. God's omnipresence
 - a. The meaning of omnipresence

Just as the infinity of God in relation to time is His eternity, so the infinity of God in relation to space is His omnipresence.

God's omnipresence may be defined as the infinitude of His being in relation to all of His creatures, whether rational beings, nonrational living creatures, or nonliving material things.

Omnipresence means present everywhere; and this characteristic states that God's presence is everywhere and in all places. He is equally present with all of His creature.

When God is said to be ubiquitous, it means that He is present everywhere at the same time.

When God is said to be immense, it does not mean that He is enormously large. Rather, it means that His essence or being fills all space. It means that He is completely present, in all of His qualities, in every location in space.

- b. Modes of presence in space

Charles Hodge states:

Theologians are accustomed to distinguish three modes of presence in space. Bodies are in space *circumscriptively*. They are bounded by it. Spirits are in space *definitively*. They have an *ubi*. They are not everywhere, but only somewhere. God is in space *repletively*. He fills all space. In other words, the limitations of space have no reference to Him. He is not absent from any portion of space, nor more present in one portion than in another. This of course is not to be understood of extension or diffusion. Extension is a property of matter, and cannot be predicated of God. If extended, He would be capable of division and separation; and part of God would be here, and part elsewhere. Nor is this omnipresence to be understood as a mere presence in knowledge and power. It is an omnipresence of the divine essence.

- Charles Hodge, *Systematic Theology*
(Washington: Scribner, 1871), Volume 1, pp.
383-384.

The Socinians and Deists held that God's essence is confined to heaven (wherever that may be) and that He is elsewhere only as to His knowledge and the effects of His exerted power.