

Where Does God Stand?

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake from multiple sources)

Introduction:

A. Where is God?

1. He doesn't need us to answer that question. The fact that we ask that question indicates that we would not understand the answer.
2. The answers humans give:
 - a. "In mythology"
 - b. "In your imagination"
 - c. "He permeates all things as the spirit of existence"
 - d. "He exists in good, kind people"
3. "God wants me to be happy." This is one of the catch phrases we hear of what is sometimes called moralistic therapeutic deism. The idea is that 1) God wants us to be nice to others and 2) he wants us to be happy. For the most part, God is seen as deistic, not really getting involved in our lives unless we need him to resolve a conflict for us so that we can be happy again. In the end, good people (as we define it) get to go to heaven when they die. Other than that, there are not many restrictions or requirements. Just be good and do what makes you happy." (Doy Moyer)

B. Acts 17:22-31

1. Paul had been in Athens for a few days. A group of Athenians desired to hear more of what he said. Their desire was to hear something new philosophically.
 2. Paul's desire was to preach the gospel; he spoke of the one true God, His creation of the world, His design of humankind with the desire to seek Him, and the fact that God is not far from anyone.
 3. But whether or not we choose to seek God makes all the difference in the world regarding where God is.
- C. Consider the relationship of God with human beings, and where He stands in those relationships
1. To know where we are individually in relationship to God, and to make changes and corrections if necessary.

D. Where is God?

1. God's position does not change - Mal. 3:6; Heb. 13:8
2. We are the ones who change.
3. This gives the appearance that God is in different places for different people.
4. "So you are feeling far from God? Who moved?"
5. Perhaps the question we should ask is: "Where are we in our relationship with God?"

I. GOD IS NEAR THE SAVED

A. God has always desired to be near His people.

1. Ex. 29:45; Lev. 26:12; John 14:23; Rev. 21:3

B. Those who accept their need to be near God are close to Him

1. Psalm 34:18, 145:18; Isa. 57:15

II. GOD IS FAR FROM THE SINNER

- A. Prov. 15:29; Isa. 59:1-2; 1Peter 3:12; Psalm 66:18
- B. However, God does not want the sinner to be far from Him.
 - 1. Rom. 5:8; 2Peter 3:9
- C. As long as the sinner chooses to remain in his sins, God is far from him.

III. GOD IS IN FRONT OF THE BACKSLIDER

- A. The backslider is one who backs away from God's will.
 - 1. Matt. 13:20-22; Heb. 6:4-8; 2Peter 2:20-22
- B. God has left behind the backslidden, now they must catch up to God.

IV. GOD IS BEHIND THE INNOVATOR

- A. The innovator seeks to go ahead of God - 2John 1:9
 - 1. We must not go beyond what is written - 1Cor. 4:6
 - 2. The innovator believes he can improve on what is written; and, like the Pharisee, he tries to create his own righteousness - Rom. 10:2-3
- B. Our efforts toward righteousness must not run ahead of God's instructions
 - 1. Matt. 5:20; Rom. 1:16-17; Phil. 3:8-9

V. GOD IS BESIDE THE FAITHFUL

- A. God stands next to His faithful children - Isa. 41:10; Rom. 8:31
- B. Our faithfulness is a reflection of God's faithfulness; when we are faithful, we are like children who stand close to their parents
 - 1. 1Cor. 1:9; Rev. 2:10

VI. GOD IS WITHIN REACH OF THE PENITENT

- A. God does not desire harm for the unrighteous - Ez. 18:31-32
- B. He challenges the sinner to come close - Isa. 1:18-20
- C. Jesus calls the sinner to His side - Matt. 11:28-30
- D. The Holy Spirit and the Lord's Church invite sinners into God's presence
 - 1. Rev. 22:17

Conclusion:

- A. Where is God?
 - 1. Is God near you?
 - 2. Is He far from you?
 - 3. Is He in front of you?
 - 4. Is He behind you?
 - 5. Is He beside you?
 - 6. Is God waiting for you?
- B. Your choices and decisions will ultimately determine where God is in relationship to you.