

God is a Spirit

This morning I was reading an article and noticed that its author made a very peculiar comment. He stated that when Genesis 1:26 says we were made in the image of God, what that means is that God looks just like we do – that He has a head, two arms, and two legs. “God doesn't look like a puppy,” he explained. “He looks like us.”

What was especially appalling is that this person was a *Bible scholar*. He had actually written a popular book in an attempt to correct people's misconceptions about the Bible. What's even worse is that people actually *believed* him! They thought that his teaching made a lot of sense.

This just goes to show how many Christians are illiterate when it comes to the Bible. The ignorance in the Church today is just appalling. This is not eschatology or predestination, folks. The idea that God is a spirit and doesn't have a body is an extremely simple and basic concept. This is something that everyone should have learned in Sunday School.

First of all, God is a Spirit:

John 4:24: “God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.”

Second, spirits *do not have bodies*. We know this because Jesus told us this after He was raised from the dead:

Luke 24:39: “Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have.”

It's really a pretty open-and-shut case. God is a spirit and spirits do not have bodies. God, therefore, does not have a head, arms, legs, bones, blood vessels, and all the rest. How could God have said it any more clearly? When God said “Let us make man in our image” He wasn't talking about the physical body. He was focused on the *spiritual* side. We are made in the likeness of God *spiritually*, not physically. People are unique in that they have a spiritual component and are capable of having a relationship with God. We can experience God in a way that no other creature can. It also means that God gave us some of His attributes – things like creativity, love, and so forth. It does *not* mean that our physical makeup resembles God's physical makeup.

If Jesus was already a physical being then there would have been nothing particularly special about His becoming a man because *He would have been a man all along*. But if instead He was a spirit, and if the boundless, eternal Presence (which the universe itself could not contain!) descended and entered human form, then that truly *was* a remarkable thing. Jesus became something that He was not before – a physical being. A human. A creature with flesh and bones and skin and appetites and hair.

Paul points out that God is actually **invisible**:

I Timothy 1:17: “Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen.”

Solomon went on to explain that the entire universe is too small a thing to contain the presence of God:

1 Kings 8:27: “But will God indeed dwell on the earth? behold, the heaven and heaven of heavens cannot contain thee; how much less this house that I have

buildded?”

God Himself echoed that very thought through the prophet Jeremiah:

Jeremiah 23:23: “Am I a God at hand, saith the Lord, and not a God afar off?
24 Can any hide himself in secret places that I shall not see him? saith the Lord. Do not I fill heaven and earth? saith the Lord.”

So God is a spirit – eternal, immortal, and invisible. He is so vast that the universe itself cannot contain him, and He fills Heaven and Earth. He does *not* have a head, arms, and legs.

Now, there is one side-note to all of this. The Trinity is composed of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. In the beginning all three were spirit (Genesis 1:1-2). However, about two thousand years ago something astounding happened: God the Son became a man. Jesus was born in Bethlehem, lived for thirty-some years, and was then executed for our sins. When He died His physical body was buried, and three days later God raised it from the dead. Jesus then ascended *bodily* into Heaven as the God-Man – fully God and yet fully Man. Jesus *does* have a physical body, and to the best of my knowledge He will always have it. But He did *not* have it when He uttered the words “Let us make man in our image” in Genesis 1. Jesus is the only part of the Trinity which became a man; God the Father and God the Holy Spirit are still spirits.

That brings up another point. The Holy Spirit is definitely a spirit; very few people would dispute that. Ask yourself this: does the Holy Spirit have a body? Does the Holy Spirit (which each Christian has living inside them!) have a head, arms, and legs? The author of the article I was reading claimed that the God-spirits still look like people; they just have bodies made out of “spirit stuff,” with heads and legs and all the rest. Does that match any description of the Holy Spirit found in the Bible? Does it even make sense?

I rest my case.