

# The Personality of God

# Man was Made in the Image of God

And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness... So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. {Genesis 1:26-27}

# S.N. Haskell - "The Personality of God"

"Of late the question has repeatedly come to me, Does it make any real difference whether we believe in the personality of God, as long as we believe in God? My answer invariably is, It depends altogether upon the standpoint from which we view it. If from the Spiritualist's, the Christian Scientist's, the Universalist's, or if from the standpoint of any other "ist" or "ism," it makes but little or no difference. But the standpoint of Seventh-day Adventists it makes all the difference in the world. **RH**  
**Oct. 8, 1903**

## S.N. Haskell - "The Personality of God"

No man who is a Seventh-day Adventist can understandingly take that position; neither can a Seventh-day Adventist hold that position for a moment. In it is involved a denial of the " Father and the Son," the law of Moses, the prophets, the psalms, the holy angels, the personality of the devil, and all that is according to sound doctrine.... **RH**  
**Oct. 8, 1903**

## To Know God, We Must First Believe that He Exists

But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that **he is**, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him. {Hebrews 11:6.}



## Christ and His Father are “One” in Unity, not Numerically

John 17:21 That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. (22) And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one:

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## They Knew God as a Personal God

And **Enoch** walked with God: and he was not; for God took him. {Genesis 5:24}

... **Noah** was a just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with God. {Genesis 6:9.}



## God was Seen on Various Occasions

And the Lord said, Behold there is a place by me, and thou shalt stand upon a rock; and it shall come to pass, while my glory passeth by, that I will put thee in a cleft of the rock, and will cover thee with my hand while I pass by. And I will take away mine hand, and thou shalt see my back parts; but my face shall not be seen. {Exodus 33:21-22}

# God was Seen on Various Occasions

And they saw the God of Israel: and there was under his feet as it were a paved work of a sapphire stone, and as it were the body of heaven in his clearness.  
{Exodus 24:10}

# Christ is the Express Image of God

“Who being the brightness of [his] glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;” (Heb 1:3)

“Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:” (Php 2:6)

## God was Seen on Various Occasions

I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of days did sit, whose garment was white as snow, and the hair of his head like the pure wool: his throne was like the fiery flame, and his wheels as burning fire. {Daniel 7:9}

# God Has a Literal Dwelling Place

And let them make me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them. {Exodus 25:8}

A minister of the sanctuary, and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man. {Hebrews 8:2}



# This Place is in Heaven

Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the lord, and Satan came also among them. {Job 1:6}

The lord is in his holy temple, the lord's throne is in heaven: his eyes behold, his eyelids try, the children of men. {Psalms 11:4}

# This Knowledge Changes Cold, Formal Religion to Genuine Worship

In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple. Above it stood the seraphims: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly. And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory. And the posts of the door moved at the voice of him that cried, and the house was filled with smoke. {Isaiah 6:1-4}

# This Knowledge Changes Cold, Formal Religion to Genuine Worship

Then said I, Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts. {Isaiah 6:5}

# This Knowledge Changes Cold, Formal Religion to Genuine Worship

Then flew one of the seraphims unto me, having a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with the tongs from off the altar: And he laid it upon my mouth, and said, Lo, this hath touched thy lips; and thine iniquity is taken away, and thy sin purged. Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me. {Isaiah 6:6-8}



## Revelation's Testimony

And immediately I was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne. Revelation 4:2.

And I saw in the right hand of him that sat on the throne a book written within and on the backside, sealed with seven seals. Revelation 5:1.



## Ellen White – Spiritualism denies God has a form

I have frequently been falsely charged with teaching views peculiar to Spiritualism. But before the editor of the Day-Star [see appendix] ran into that delusion, the Lord gave me a view of the sad and desolating effects that would be produced upon the flock by him and others in teaching the spiritual views. I have often seen the lovely Jesus, that He is a person. I asked Him if His Father was a person and had a form like Himself. Said Jesus, "I am in the express image of My Father's person. {Early Writings p.77.1}

## Ellen White – Spiritualism denies God has a form

I have often seen that the spiritual view took away all the glory of heaven, and that in many minds the throne of David and the lovely person of Jesus have been burned up in the fire of Spiritualism. I have seen that **some who have been deceived and led into this error will be brought out into the light of truth**, but it will be almost impossible for them to get entirely rid of the deceptive power of Spiritualism. Such should make thorough work in confessing their errors and leaving them forever. {Early Writings p.77.2}

## Ellen White – The Father has a form

I saw a throne, and on it sat the Father and the Son. I gazed on Jesus' countenance and admired His lovely person. The Father's person I could not behold, for a cloud of glorious light covered Him. I asked Jesus if His Father had a form like Himself. He said **He had**, but I could not behold it, for said He, "If you should once behold the glory of His person, you would cease to exist. {Early Writings p.54.2}

## James White – The Father has a personal Shape

"We here add the testimony of Christ. "And the Father himself which hath sent me, hath borne witness of me. Ye have neither heard his voice at any time, nor seen his shape." John v,37. See also Phil.ii,6. To say that the Father has not a **personal shape**, seems the most pointed contradiction of plain scripture terms.

{Personality of God - Seventh-day Adventist Pub. Assoc.: tract - 186? {8}}



## James White – The Father has a personal Shape

OBJECTION. - "God is a Spirit." John iv,24.

ANSWER. - Angels are also spirits [Ps.civ,4], yet those that visited Abram and Lot, lay down, ate, and took hold of Lot's hand. They were spirit beings. So is **God a Spirit being**.

OBJ. - God is everywhere. Proof. Ps.cxxxix,1-8. He is as much in every place as in any one place.

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# James White – God is Everywhere by His Omniscience

ANS. - 1. **God is everywhere by virtue of his omniscience**, as will be seen by the very words of David referred to above. Verses 1-6. "O Lord, thou hast searched me, and known me. ***Thou knowest my down-sitting and mine uprising; thou understandest my thought afar off.*** Thou compassest my path and my lying down, and art acquainted with all my ways. For there is not a word in my tongue, but, lo, O Lord, thou knowest it altogether. Thou hast beset me behind and before, and laid thy hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me. It is high; I cannot attain unto it."

{Personality of God - Seventh-day Adventist Pub. Assoc.: tract - 186? {8}}

## James White – God is Everywhere by His Spirit

"2. **God is everywhere by virtue of his Spirit**, which is his representative, and is manifested wherever he pleases, as will be seen by the very words the objector claims, referred to above. Verses 7-10. "Whither shall I go from thy Spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence? If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there; if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there. If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me."

{Personality of God - Seventh-day Adventist Pub. Assoc.: tract - 186? {8}}

## James White – If God is Everywhere, Heaven is Everywhere

“God is in heaven”. This we are taught in the Lord's prayer. "Our Father which art in heaven." Matt.vi,9; Luke xi,2. But if God is as much in every place as he is in any one place, then heaven is also as much in every place as it is in any one place, and the idea of going to heaven is all a mistake. We are all in heaven; and the Lord's prayer, according to this foggy theology simply means, Our Father which art everywhere, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth, as it is everywhere.

{Personality of God - Seventh-day Adventist Pub. Assoc.: tract - 186? {8}}

## James White – If Heaven is Everywhere ...

Jesus is said to be on the right hand of the Majesty on high." Heb.i,3. "So, then, after the Lord had spoken unto them he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God." Mark xvi,19. But if heaven be everywhere, and God everywhere, then Christ's ascension up to heaven, at the Father's right hand, simply means that he went everywhere! He was only taken up where the cloud hid him from the gaze of his disciples, and then evaporated and **went everywhere!**

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## James White – If Heaven is Everywhere ...

So that instead of the lovely Jesus, so beautifully described in both Testaments, we have only a sort of **essence** dispersed through the entire universe. And in harmony with this rarified theology, Christ's second advent, or his return, would be the condensation of this essence to some locality, say the mount of Olivet! Christ arose from the dead with a physical form. "He is not here," said the angel, "for he is risen as he said."  
Matt.xxviii,6.

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## James White – Atheists and Sectarians are the Same

"O sectarianism! O atheism!! O annihilation!!! Who can perceive the nice shades of difference between the one and the other? They seem alike, all but in name. The **atheist has no God. The sectarian has a God without body or parts.** Who can define the difference? For our part we do not perceive a difference of a single hair; they both claim to be the negative of all things which exist - and both are equally powerless and unknown.

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## James White – Atheists and Sectarians are the Same

"The **atheist** has no after life, or conscious existence beyond the grave. The **sectarian** has one, but it is immaterial, like his God; and without body or parts. Here again both are negative, and **both arrive at the same point. Their faith and hope amount to the same;** only it is expressed by different terms.

{Personality of God - Seventh-day Adventist Pub. Assoc.: tract - 186? {8}}

## James White - The SABBATH GOD

"Does not God say he fills immensity of space? We answer, No. Ps.cxxxix,7,8. Whither shall I go from thy Spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence? If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there, &c. God by his Spirit may fill heaven and earth, &c. Some **confound God with his Spirit**, which makes confusion. Ps.xi,4. The Lord is in his holy temple, the Lord's throne is in heaven: his eyes behold, &c. Hab.ii,20; Ps.cii,19. For he hath looked down from the height of his Sanctuary; from heaven did the Lord behold the earth. ..." {RH March 7, 1854}

## James White - THE SUNDAY GOD

"We will make a few extracts, that the reader may see the broad contrast between the God of the Bible brought to light through Sabbath-keeping, and the god in the dark through Sunday-keeping. **Catholic** Catechism Abridged by the Rt. Rev. John Dubois, Bishop of New York. Page 5.

Ques. Where is God? Ans. **God is everywhere.** Q. Does God see and know all things? A. Yes, he does know and see all things. Q. Has God any body? A. No; **God has no body, he is a pure Spirit.** {RH March 7, 1854}



## James White - THE SUNDAY GOD

"Q. Are there more Gods than one? A. No; there is but one God. Q. Are there more persons than one in God? A. Yes; in God there are three persons. Q. Which are they? A. God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Ghost. Q. Are there not three Gods? A. No; the **Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost, are all but one and the same God.** {RH March 7, 1854}



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## James White - THE SUNDAY GOD

"The first article of the **Methodist** Religion, p. 8. There is but one living and true God, everlasting, without body or parts, of infinite power, wisdom and goodness: the maker and preserver of all things, visible and invisible. And in unity of this God-head, there are three persons of one substance, power and eternity; the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost." {RH March 7, 1854}

## James White - THE SUNDAY GOD

"In this article like the Catholic doctrine, we are taught that there are **three persons of one substance, power and eternity making in all one living and true God, everlasting without body or parts**. But in all this we are not told what became of the body of Jesus who had a body when he ascended, who went to God who "is everywhere" or nowhere. Doxology. - "To God the Father, God the Son, God the Spirit, three in one." {RH March 7, 1854}

## Ellen White – by His Spirit He is Everywhere Present

- Ministry of Healing - Ellen White - 417.2  
"The Bible shows us God in His high and holy place, not in a state of inactivity, not in silence and solitude, but surrounded by ten thousand times ten thousand and thousands of thousands of holy beings, all waiting to do His will.  
**Through these messengers He is in active communication with every part of His dominion. By His Spirit He is everywhere present.** Through the agency of His Spirit and His angels He ministers to the children of men."



## Ellen White – by His Spirit He is Everywhere Present

- "The greatness of God is to us incomprehensible. "The Lord's throne is in heaven" (Psalm 11:4); yet **by His Spirit He is everywhere present**. He has an intimate knowledge of, and a personal interest in, all the works of His hand.  
'Who is like unto the Lord our God, who dwelleth on high, Who humbleth Himself to behold the things that are in heaven, and in the earth!' {Ed 132.2}



## Uriah Smith – God is Omnipresent by the Holy Spirit

"Here and Hereafter or Man in Life and Death - Reward of the Righteous and the Destiny of the Wicked – 1897 p. 34

Again: it is urged that God is **omnipresent**; and how can this be, if he is a person? Answer: He has a representative, his **Holy Spirit**, by which he is ever present and ever felt in all his universe. "Whither shall I go," asks David, "from thy Spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence?" Ps.139:7. And John saw standing before the throne of God seven lamps, which are declared to be "the seven Spirits of God," and which are "sent forth into all the earth." Rev.4:5; 5:6."

## Uriah Smith – God is Omnipresent by the Holy Spirit

"We now invite the attention of the reader to a little of the evidence that may be presented to show that God is a person, and so that man, though of course in an imperfect and finite degree, may be an image, or likeness, of him, as to his **bodily form.**"

## J.N. Loughborough – God is not Just a Spirit

But his Spirit has been on the earth; the Comforter that he promised to send. So in the same manner God manifests himself by his Spirit which is also the power through which he works. "But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you." Rom. viii, 11.

## J.N. Loughborough – God is not Just a Spirit

Here is a plain distinction made between the Spirit, and God that raises the dead by that Spirit. **If the living God is a Spirit** in the strictest sense of the term, and at the same time is in possession of a Spirit, then we have at once the novel idea of the **Spirit of a Spirit**, something it will take at least a Spiritualist to explain."

## 1872 SDA Fundamental Beliefs

“That there is one God, a **personal**, spiritual being, the creator of all things, omnipotent, omniscient, and eternal; infinite in wisdom, holiness, justice, goodness, truth, and mercy; unchangeable, and is ‘**everywhere present by his representative, the Holy Spirit.**’ Ps. 139:7”



## 1980 SDA Fundamental Beliefs

# 2 “There is one God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, a unity of three co-eternal Persons. God is immortal, all-powerful, all-knowing, above all, and **ever present**. He is infinite and beyond human comprehension, yet known through His self-revelation. He is forever worthy of worship, adoration, and service by the whole creation.” Seventh-day Adventists Believe p. 16

## 1980 SDA Fundamental Beliefs

“God is omnipresent (Ps 139:7-12; Heb 4:13), **transcending all space. Yet He is fully present in every part of space.** He is eternal (Ps 90:2; Rev 1:8), exceeding the limits of time, yet is fully present in every moment of time.”

*Seventh-day Adventists Believe p. 20*

## S.N. Haskell - “The Personality of God”

Therefore we repeat what we previously said, to deny the personality of God, is to deny the existence of the sanctuary in the heavens; for there God dwells. It is to deny the existence of the angels; for they are his throne. It is to deny the law of God; for it is the foundation of his throne. It is to deny the existence of Satan; for he is a fallen angel. It makes the **light and life** which God created, and which proceeds from him, **RH Oct. 8, 1903**

## S.N. Haskell - “The Personality of God”

whether it be in the grass or in cats or dogs or in man kind, to be the god. Since man, however, is the highest form of light and life, he necessarily becomes the **supreme deity**. It leads men to worship\_ the creature more than the Creator. We lift a warning voice against any such doctrine, from whatever source it comes. We say the Bible, and the Bible only, shall be our creed. In it is salvation.... **RH Oct. 8, 1903**



## Ellen White – Personality of the Father and the Son

He who denies the personality of God and of his Son Jesus Christ, is denying God and Christ. “If that which ye have heard from the beginning shall remain in you, ye also shall continue in the Son, and in the Father.” *If you continue to believe and obey the truths you first embraced regarding the personality of the Father and the Son, you will be joined together with him in love. There will be seen that **union** for which Christ prayed just before his trial and crucifixion:–* {Ellen White - The New York Indicator 2/07/06}