



But in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. – Matthew 15:9

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Getting Physical With Jesus

Several days ago I came across a text that didn't just raise a few red flags, instead, atomic bombs went off in my head. There is a teaching about Jesus that many Seventh-day Adventists are familiar with because it is a common belief. Let me state up-front that neither Elkanah nor I agree with this particular belief. For me it simply doesn't make any sense at all. But it is a prominent teaching in the Adventist church.

The teaching I speak of is that when Jesus took on humanity and came to this planet to provide the means for our rescue, He would be from that moment forward forever bound to a human body.

Throughout the years I've heard many people state that they take comfort in this teaching. The Father loved us so much that He gave us His Son to forever be a human being.

Let's think this through. Imagine yourself in outer space. How far will you have to travel before you reach the end of space? And when you reach the end, what will be beyond that? That's mind-boggling, isn't it?

Our brains are finite and cannot understand the idea of never ending, especially in our sinful condition. Once I knew a man who avowed his love for me and promised that no matter what, he would love me forever. Our love would last an eternity. I married him and guess what... that lower-case love didn't last. After nine and a half years into the marriage I found myself not only single once again, I now had to bear the burden of being both Mom and Dad to our son.

How long is forever? In an attempt to ease people's fears about God burning

them in hell-fire forever and ever, I once heard an evangelist explain the concept of something never-ending. He claimed that forever means "as long as it lasts." To explain this he told the people who were attending his meetings to imagine a wooden box. The wood on this box has been specially treated and will never rot. Bugs will never destroy it. This box will last forever. Now imagine taking a hammer and using it to dismantle the box. Now you no longer have a box, instead you have a pile of boards and a few nails. This box lasted forever until it no longer was a box. And with this logic he taught that people would burn in hell forever which would be for as long as they lasted.

Know what? This theology is hooey. It is nonsensical. This evangelist was preaching what he had been taught by someone in the Adventist church. Hopefully he wasn't willfully teaching this false doctrine. If he taught this while knowing that God would never burn a living person with combustible fire, even if only for a fleeting moment, then he's going to have to someday face what he did to those he taught this fallacy to. Torching people is not an act of love therefore it is not an act that God is capable of because it is outside His Character which is Love. And furthermore, when you look into it you'll find that it is God Himself who dwells in the eternally burning fire. Those who have proven their love for Him will also be dwelling in that fire along with all the other unfallen beings. It's another one of satan's lies.

You may argue that it's a strange act for Him. Actually, His strange act is when He reaches the point that He realizes there is nothing further He can do to reach someone who refuses to get to know Him. When that happens He gives up trying and allows that person to have his/her way. His strange act is to let go and stop trying to rescue someone who refuses to be rescued. When that happens, you can be assured that His heart is broken.

So let's take that evangelist's explanation that forever means it lasts until it isn't there anymore. How far do we go into outer space before we reach the point where there is no more space. Are we perhaps living in an enormous bubble that's holding all this empty space and the planets, suns, rocks, gasses, etc... are floating around inside this bubble? If so, what's on the other side of the bubble?

Why does this explanation of a box being a box until it is no longer a box not apply to God's love for us? God is Love. Love is His essence. For Him, Love is not a verb, it's a noun. He loves us. Period. Since He is love He cannot do anything that isn't Loving. His Love is eternal. Does this explanation mean that God loves us until He no longer loves us? If that were to happen then God would no longer be Love, He would be something else.

There are some people who will have a problem with what I'm about to say and for those of you who don't like this I'm so sorry that you have a problem with using your brain. I'm going to ask you to use your imagination which is a natural function of our brain. We are constantly using our imagination. Where do you think the idea for all the different things we have around us that make our lives easier came from? They came about because someone imagined them then set out to create what he/she had imagined.

So, let's use our imaginations and think about what life will be like after we've been rescued from this sinful planet. How many other beings are there in the entirety of creation? I'm betting the number is limitless. It is a number so large that we cannot fathom it. (And if you think God can't do math, I'll post a link at the bottom of this page to a video where scientists have used math to prove the existence of God and it is absolutely fascinating!) If we are so in love with Jesus that we've managed to allow the Holy Spirit to change our sinful natures, won't we want to spend some time with Him? But if He's stuck in a human body which isn't omnipresent, how often do you expect to be able to visit with Him and for how long? And since we've made it to heaven our characters will be Christlike which means we're more interested in the well-being of others than of ourselves, so wouldn't we be willing to give up our allotted time with Jesus so someone else who needs Him more can be with Him?

If this is the case and Jesus is no longer omnipresent, then you should plan to spend eternity without ever seeing Jesus after he has come to rescue you.

This makes me laugh. In the Bible God's people are referred to as His bride. What kind of marriage do you think we'll have if we never get to see or spend any time with our Spouse? I can promise you, it won't be a fulfilling marriage.

Is there a Bible passage to back my assertion that Jesus has the power to be everywhere all at once? Yes. I've found 2. The one I've clung to for years is where Jesus states that all power was given to him. All power would include the power of omnipresence. The other text is the one I found a few days ago that blows away the idea that Jesus is from the moment he entered this world as a human, bound for the rest of eternity into a human body. I'll share it with you in a moment.

The text in which Jesus states that all power is given unto him is found in Matthew:

And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given

unto me in heaven and in earth. – Matthew 28:18 KJV

Normally I use the New International Version of the Bible. But there are times when I don't like their translation. This particular text is one of those that I have issues with. The NIV uses the word “authority” instead of “power.” Their rendering is that Jesus said, “All authority... is given to me.”

The use of the word “authority” in this setting is something that I reject because in my mind someone who is an authority is someone who is in charge, i.e., the boss. The boss tells you what to do then will dole out punishments of some sort when you fail to function in the way he commanded. This is bullying and a bully doesn't love anyone except himself.

Jesus was far from being a bully. He acted only in love toward those he came into contact with when he was physically living here among us. He acted in love before he came as a baby, and he continued to act in love after his resurrection and ascension into heaven. He still acts only in love with all His creation.

When Jesus said that He had all power, I believe He was saying that He has the ability to do anything he wants. Anything. He may have laid that aside when He came to this world to live among us as a human, and if He did then he reclaimed it. By his own words ALL Power had been given to him. He can do whatever he wants. He didn't say everything except the power of omnipresence, he said ALL power. That would mean He can be everywhere all at once. And since He can be everywhere then you can plan on spending as much time with Him as you want for He will never leave your side unless you ask Him to. And as you come to know Him you'll want to be with him more and more and more and more, ad infinitum.

Before I share with you the text that I found I wanted to try to locate the source of the teaching that Jesus was forever confined to a human body I'll tell you that my suspicion was that Ellen was responsible for this. I began my search but initially was unable to locate where this idea had come from. There is a Facebook group that I belong to which is comprised of current and former Adventists. I posted a question there asking if anyone knew where this idea came from. Those who responded thought that Ellen was the one who taught it but to find something where she actually came right out and stated it clearly was something nobody posted. It's possible that someone posted the passage after I quit watching that post and if so, I missed it.

After checking other sources I was beginning to think that when writing this I would have to refer to the teaching that Jesus is bound to a human body is

Adventist lore. But I don't have to do that because I did eventually find a passage where Ellen makes this claim.

Will Bear Humanity Throughout Eternity—Christ ascended to heaven, bearing a sanctified, holy humanity. He took this humanity with Him into the heavenly courts, and through the eternal ages He will bear it, as the One who has redeemed every human being in the city of God, the One who has pleaded before the Father, “I have graven them upon the palms of my hands.” The palms of His hands bear the marks of the wounds that He received. If we are wounded and bruised, if we meet with difficulties that are hard to manage, let us remember how much Christ suffered for us. Let us sit together with our brethren in heavenly places in Christ. Let us bring heaven’s blessing into our hearts.

Jesus took the nature of humanity, in order to reveal to man a pure, unselfish love, to teach us how to love one another.

As a man Christ ascended to heaven. As a man He is the substitute and surety for humanity. As a man He liveth to make intercession for us. He is preparing a place for all who love Him. As a man He will come again with power and glory, to receive His children. And that which should cause us joy and thanksgiving is, that God “hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained.” Then we may have the assurance forever that the whole unfallen universe is interested in the grand work Jesus came to our world to accomplish, even the salvation of man.

Christ has carried His humanity into eternity. He stands before God as the representative of our race. When we are clothed with the wedding garment of His righteousness, we become one with Him, and He says of us, “They shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy.” His saints will behold Him in His glory, with no dimming veil between.

Christ ascended to heaven, bearing a sanctified, holy humanity. He took this humanity with Him into the heavenly courts, and through the eternal ages He will bear it, as the One who has redeemed every human being in the city of God – *Heaven*, page 74, 75

There we have it. In the book *Heaven* it states that Jesus will bear humanity throughout eternity. And since Seventh-day Adventists have been taught that Ellen never made a mistake then a surface reading of this would and probably did lead people to believe that Jesus is forever bound to a human body therefore he no longer has the power of omnipresence. This belief places Ellen above Jesus himself because people have chosen to believe Ellen and ignore what Jesus said.

Now let me share with you the text I found that blows this out of the water and then we'll have a quick look at what humanity Ellen may have been speaking about but didn't clarify in the above passage.

The Angel and the Little Scroll

Then I saw another mighty angel coming down from heaven. He was robed in a cloud, with a rainbow above his head; his face was like the sun, and his legs were like fiery pillars. He was holding a little scroll, which lay open in his hand. He planted his right foot on the sea and his left foot on the land, and he gave a loud shout like the roar of a lion. When he shouted, the voices of the seven thunders spoke. And when the seven thunders spoke, I was about to write; but I heard a voice from heaven say, "Seal up what the seven thunders have said and do not write it down." – Revelation 10:1-4 NIV

John tells of a mighty angel who came down from heaven. This is an angel he speaks of. But look at the description of this angel. Do you recognize him? Let's compare the description of this mighty angel with another person mentioned in Revelation.

John's Vision of Christ

I, John, your brother and companion in the suffering and kingdom and patient endurance that are ours in Jesus, was on the island of Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. On the Lord's Day I was in the Spirit, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet, which said: "Write on a scroll what you see and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea."

I turned around to see the voice that was speaking to me. And when I turned I saw seven golden lampstands, and among the lampstands was someone like a son of man, dressed in a robe reaching down to

his feet and with a golden sash around his chest. The hair on his head was white like wool, as white as snow, and his eyes were like blazing fire. His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of rushing waters. In his right hand he held seven stars, and coming out of his mouth was a sharp, double-edged sword. His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance.

When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. Then he placed his right hand on me and said: "Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. I am the Living One; I was dead, and now look, I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades. – Revelation 1:9-18 NIV

The Throne in Heaven

After this I looked, and there before me was a door standing open in heaven. And the voice I had first heard speaking to me like a trumpet said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this." At once I was in the Spirit, and there before me was a throne in heaven with someone sitting on it. And the one who sat there had the appearance of jasper and ruby. A rainbow that shone like an emerald encircled the throne. Surrounding the throne were twenty-four other thrones, and seated on them were twenty-four elders. They were dressed in white and had crowns of gold on their heads. From the throne came flashes of lightning, rumblings and peals of thunder. In front of the throne, seven lamps were blazing. These are the seven spirits of God. Also in front of the throne there was what looked like a sea of glass, clear as crystal. – Revelation 4:1-6 NIV

Do you see the similarities. The mighty angel that John saw AFTER Jesus had ascended into heaven was in reality Jesus. The description is too similar to be someone else.

So what was Ellen up to? Was she contradicting the Bible? Or did she make a mistake in her writing and it got past her editors? I'm going to share with you one passage that will give cause for us to wonder. This is mentioned several times in her writings but to save room I'm only going to put one passage here. If you want to read them for yourself you can go to egwwritings.org and type the words "human forever" into the search engine. Don't put the quotes on these words when you enter them.

By His life and His death, Christ has achieved even more than recovery from the ruin wrought through sin. It was Satan's purpose to bring about an eternal separation between God and man; but in Christ we become more closely united to God than if we had never fallen. In taking our nature, the Saviour has bound Himself to humanity by a tie that is never to be broken. Through the eternal ages He is linked with us. "God so loved the world, that He gave His only-begotten Son." John 3:16. He gave Him not only to bear our sins, and to die as our sacrifice; He gave Him to the fallen race. To assure us of His immutable counsel of peace, God gave His only-begotten Son to become one of the human family, forever to retain His human nature. This is the pledge that God will fulfill His word. "Unto *us* a child is born, unto *us* a son is given: and the government shall be upon His shoulder." God has adopted human nature in the person of His Son, and has carried the same into the highest heaven. It is the "Son of man" who shares the throne of the universe. It is the "Son of man" whose name shall be called, "Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace." Isaiah 9:6. The I AM is the Daysman between God and humanity, laying His hand upon both. He who is "holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners," is not ashamed to call us brethren. Hebrews 7:26; 2:11. In Christ the family of earth and the family of heaven are bound together. Christ glorified is our brother. Heaven is enshrined in humanity, and humanity is enfolded in the bosom of Infinite Love. – Desire of Ages, page 25

So, did Ellen goof? What do you think? Did she misrepresent Jesus's abilities when she said that he would bear humanity throughout eternity or did she make a mistake in her writing and fail to tell us that the humanity he will bear throughout eternity is a human nature? And I'm wondering where she got the idea that Jesus would bear a human nature throughout eternity? At this point I'm not disputing that, I'm simply wondering.

As for the teaching that Jesus will be bound to a human body therefore he is no longer omnipresent, that teaching must be false. It has to be. I don't believe that John lied to us when he described what he saw and the mighty angel had an appearance too similar to the God Jesus than to the human Jesus.

Before I end this I said I would post a link to a video I found on youtube.com. Some scientists have found a way to prove the existence of God by using math.

Their findings were amazing. Here's the link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NaDvPeWjBuY&t=932s>

OK, gonna close this now. Everyone have a wonderful day!

Love to all,

Hannah

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