

**Daily Life with Christ. Love-29: Understanding the objective, universal, unchanging, eternal nature of love: toasters, relationships, and the omnipresence of God.**



(Pdf copy at <http://www.fbcweb.org/Doctrines/040718.pdf>; for background and complete series, see <http://www.fbcweb.org/doctrines.html>).

**George:** Well, what you call the “spiritual conduit system” . . . that you say is a product of “scientism” makes sense to me. I don’t see how anyone can grow apart from living in fellowship with God, which requires confession of sin to stay in fellowship.

**Stephen:** I agree with you that it is impossible to grow spiritually, to grow in likeness to Jesus Christ, without living in fellowship with God. I just think your understanding of fellowship is flawed because it is built on modern science rather than classical metaphysics. I also think your view of God is fundamentally flawed because of lack of metaphysical thinking.

**George:** What do you mean that my view of fellowship is based on modern science rather than classical metaphysics?

**Stephen:** The way you talk about fellowship fits more the way a toaster works. The way you say it, you are either plugged into God and His power source or you are not—in fellowship or out of fellowship. It all depends on being plugged in like in a physical way. It is all a matter of connection. As long as you are plugged in like a toaster into the electrical outlet, everything works. When one sins, the toaster is unplugged. Confession of sin is like plugging in the toaster—now it works. As long as one uses 1 John 1:9, then he is plugged in and His power works in the life. It is all a matter of being confessed up, keep being plugged into God for automatic spiritual power.

**George:** So, you don’t think God breaks contact with a person when he sins?

**Stephen:** Not like a toaster being unplugged . . . and not like getting out of a bottom circle of power. Relationships do not work that way. My relationship with my wife is not a matter of

being plugged into her like some toaster. We can still have a relationship even if we say or do something against each other . . . like make an unkind statement or take each other for granted. In that condition, the 2<sup>nd</sup> person intimate relationship suffers, but in no way can the damaged relationship be compared to being plugged into each other like a toaster. Relationships do not work that way—not among human beings and not with God!

**George:** Don't you think God the Holy Spirit fills up a person . . . you know the Greek word for filling, *pleroo*, means to fill up to the capacity like filling up a vessel.

**Stephen:** No! That physical description does not fit metaphysical relationships or the nature of God.

**George:** But the Bible speaks of God filling people and even leaving certain people, like King Saul.

**Stephen:** Yes, it does, but those are figures of speech used to explain some metaphysical reality.

**George:** So, you do not think that God physically leaves certain people?

**Stephen:** No, just like I do not think that God literally goes from place to place as described in the Bible. These are figures of speech.

**George:** How do you know that they are figures of speech?

**Stephen:** Do you believe that God is omnipresent?

**George:** Of course.

**Stephen:** If He is omnipresent, how could He go from one place to another? He is already everywhere all the time. Moreover, given that He is the existential cause of each and every being that exists for every instant, if He left, then the being would instantly cease to exist. Consider how the toaster or circle analogy breaks down when one considers the omnipresence of God. Neither personal relationships nor existential causations work that way: our life with God and people is not a matter of being plugged in or out—just as when we unplug a toaster it does not cease to exist, which would be the case for us if God broke contact and thus ceased to give us our act of existence every instant.