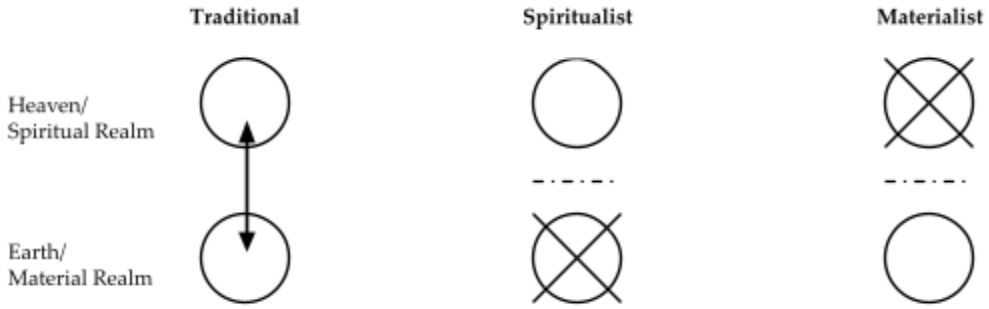
Paul's Worldview in Ephesians

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* 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the **heavenly places**,
* 1:20 – 21 God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the **heavenly places**, far above all **rule** and **authority** and **power** and **dominion**, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come.
* 2:2 in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the **ruler** of the **power** of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient.
* 2:6 and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the **heavenly places** in Christ Jesus,
* 3:10 so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the **heavenly places**.
* 6:12 for our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the **rulers**, against the **authorities**, against the cosmic **powers** of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the **heavenly places**.



Traditional Worldview:

- Both the spiritual and physical realms are real; activity in one realm affects the other. Everything earthly has its heavenly counterpart (e.g. prayer on earth is matched by prayer by the angels in heaven.); every event is a combination of both the spiritual dimension and material dimension of reality (e.g. 2 Kings 6:15-17, Rev.12:17). Hence, Jesus spoke about the destruction of the temple, saying that 'the powers in the heavens will be shaken' (Mk.13:25). The powers in the heavens (sun, moon, stars, etc.) represent the heavenly dimension of earthly powers (religious and political leaders in Jerusalem being overturned by Titus' Roman cohorts). As with Jesus' use of the language of cosmic power, so with Paul's.

This worldview was held not only by the writers of the Bible, but also by the Greeks, Romans, Egyptians, Babylonians, Indians, Chinese and most people in the ancient world. Though often referred to as 'ancient', large numbers of non-westernized people in the modern era hold it as well.

Spiritualist Worldview:

- That which is spiritual is good; that which is physical is evil. Sex, the body, and earthly life in general are considered inherently ungodly or irrelevant. The physical world is a cosmic error. 'The world is a prison into which spirits have fallen from the good heaven.' (Wink, *The Powers that Be*, p. 16)

This worldview is behind Gnosticism, Neo-Platonism, the sexual attitudes associated with Puritanism, New Age practices, and cults such as 'the Heaven's Gate'.

Materialist Worldview:

- The spiritual world is an illusion. There is no heaven, no God, no angels, and no demons. All that really exists is that which can be known through the five senses and reason. Humans have no soul or spirit that exists eternally, only the chemicals and atoms that makes up our bodies.

This worldview became prominent in the westernized world through the Enlightenment. It is the dominant worldview of most universities, the media, and western culture as a whole. Marxism and Communism share this worldview as well.