

What About ...

By Dave DeWitt

Calling God “She”

There are three arguments used to support calling God “She”:

1. God created man in His image, both male and female

The elders of a church a friend of mine attends, recently defended using feminine terms for God. Here are a few of the elders’ comments:

- God has no gender... If He were a man, only men would be in His image.
- When God created man in His image, He created male and female.
- Evidently, sexuality is not God’s quality.

Answer: But the man and the woman were not created the same. God created man from the dust, but the woman was taken out of the man because *it is not good for man to be alone* (Genesis 2:18). When these elders go back to creation to demonstrate that both males and females are created in the image of God, they neglect the rest of the story. Eve was not created as head, or even as a co-leader with Adam. She was created as *a helper suitable for him* (Genesis 2:18).

Of course, God does not have gender, in the sense of sexual identity. Jesus told the Samaritan woman, “*God is Spirit and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth*” (John 4:24). God is *Spirit*, but God is also a *Him*, a personal Being who is the planner, creator, and sustainer of everything (Isaiah 45:5-7). The pronoun “He” identifies with the masculine identity in the sense of His headship. Any reference to God as “She” would not be a god who is the planner, creator, and sustainer of all things. “She” sounds like a god who is in submission to some other god.

2. God is also referred to as a mother

There are six references used to claim God is a mother. Here are those verses with my comment:
Deuteronomy 32:18 *You neglected the Rock who begot you, and forgot the God who gave you birth.*

Answer: This is a metaphor about God creating the nation of Israel. Moses had no intention of suggesting God was feminine. If this says God is an actual mother, then it also says God is an actual rock.

Psalm 131:2 *Surely I have composed and quieted my soul; like a weaned child rests against his mother, my soul is like a weaned child within me.*

Answer: David is talking about his own composure, not the character of God.

Isaiah 49:15 *Can a woman forget her nursing child and have no compassion on the son of her womb? Even these may forget, but I will not forget you.*

Answer: This is a contrast, not an identification. God’s compassion goes beyond that of a mother.

Isaiah 66:13 *As one whom his mother comforts, so I will comfort you; and you will be comforted in Jerusalem.*

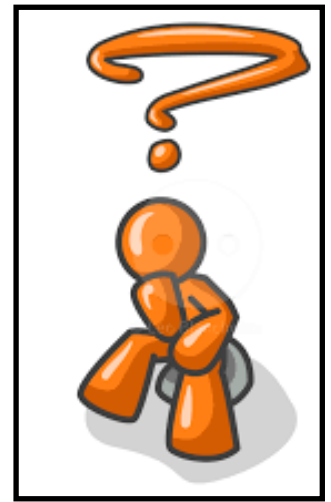
Answer: In the context (starting with verse 10) it is Jerusalem, not God, who is referred to as a comforting mother.

Hosea 11:3 *Yet it is I who taught Ephraim to walk, I took them in My arms; even these may forget, but I will not forget you.*

Answer: Why is this a reference to a mother? Fathers might also teach their children to walk.

Matthew 23:37 *“Jerusalem, Jerusalem, who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, the way a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were unwilling.”*

Answer: There is no more intent here to refer to God as a mother, than there is to refer to God as a chicken. The point is God wants Jerusalem to return to Him. This is not an attempt to feminize God.



The God of the Bible is called Father, not Mother.
Deuteronomy 32:6 ... *Is not He your Father who has bought you?*

Malachi 2:10 *Do we not all have one Father? Has not one God created us?*

Matthew 6:9 *“Our Father who is in heaven...”*

John 10:30 *I and the Father are one*

1 Corinthians 8:6 ... *yet for us there is but one God, the Father*

In the Gospels alone, Christ used the term “Father” in direct reference to God nearly 160 times. [gotquestions.org/God-male-female.html]

3. Calling God “she” emphasizes the love of God

Here are some comments made by an unnamed author representing “Christian Feminism Today.”

... when I say “She,” when I think of “Her,” I get a full, warm, compassionate feeling in my heart. I get a God-of-Love feeling ... When I say “He,” I don’t get that same feeling. Maybe it’s because of the image of God I absorbed during my childhood, the scary dude who sat up in heaven and “judged the quick and the dead.” Maybe it’s because everyone I’ve ever met who makes it a point to exclude LGBTQ people calls God “He.” I don’t know. But I do know that “She” just feels more like a God-of-Love to me. [eewc.com/calling-god-just-another-pronoun/]

Answer: God does not just have one attribute. The attributes of God include truth, holiness, righteousness, and justice (Hosea 2:19). Throughout Scripture, God initiates His contact with sinful man in the form of judgment (the flood of Noah, the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, the exile of Israel, and the death of Jesus to pay for our sin). *“But because of your stubbornness and unrepentant heart you are storing up wrath for yourself in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God”* (Romans 2:5).

Let’s think about the plan of salvation. The salvation message of Christ and the apostles is first bad news, not good news. It is first a realization that all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23), not a “full warm compassionate feeling.” As Jesus said, *“fear Him*

who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell” (Matthew 10:28). John’s statement *perfect love casts out fear* (1 John 4:18) means there must first be a fear for perfect love to cast out. If God was just a “full warm compassionate feeling,” without truth, holiness and justice, there would be no need for Jesus to die for our sins (2 Corinthians 5:21), which may be the point of the liberal, progressive agenda.

The God of the Bible is “He” because “He” denotes headship

1 Corinthians 11:3 *But I want you to understand that Christ is the head of every man, and the man is the head of a woman, and God is the head of Christ.*

Feminine references, and gender-neutral references, are never used, and should never be used, to denote the God of the Bible because those designations diminish the headship of God. Old Testament Hebrew had only masculine and feminine pronouns, and it chose the masculine for God every time. New Testament Greek had gender-neutral terms, yet God is always referred to in masculine terms.

Any reference to God as “She” or “Mother” or any other feminine terms, is not talking about the God of the Bible. It is not determined by studying the Bible. It is not an application of any biblical passage. From Genesis to Revelation, the God of the Bible is referred to with a masculine personal pronoun.

Genesis 1:27 *God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.*

Revelation 4:2-3 *Immediately I was in the Spirit; and behold, a throne was standing in heaven, and One sitting on the throne. And He who was sitting was like a jasper stone and a sardius in appearance ...*