

Is God a Woman? (Unmasking Feminist Theology about God)

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Is God a woman? Is it scriptural to speak of God as Mother? Is it permissible to refer to Jehovah as “Her”? How does God reveal Himself in the Bible? Is God both a man and a woman? The feminist movement has not only been attacking the divine order that God has established for the home and marriage, this same movement has also been attacking God Himself.

God’s “gender” has been a hot topic for approximately the last two decades because of the Women’s Liberation Movement and the sexual revolution. Books with titles like “When God was a Woman,” or “The Feminine Face of God” and “Woman spirit Rising” and “Beyond God the Father” have been popular sellers. Modern religious writers have given in to the “signs of the times” (2 Tim. 3:1-7) in an attempt to make God “gender neutral.”

One feminist writer said:

“Why indeed must 'God' be a noun? Why not a verb - the most active and dynamic of all.”

In a chapter titled “To Hell with Sexism: Women in Religion” in the book “Megatrends for Women,” authors Patricia Aburdene and John Naisbitt show how modern culture celebrates feminism. “Women of the late twentieth century are revolutionizing the most sexist institution in history—organized religion. Overturning millennia of tradition, they are challenging authorities, reinterpreting the Bible, creating their own services, crowding into seminaries, winning the right to ordination, purging sexist language in liturgy, reintegrating female values and assuming positions of leadership.”

Satan delights in wreaking havoc on the church. He twists the truth on every issue, creating doctrinal confusion wherever he can. This is why we must continue to uphold “sound doctrine” (1 Tim. 1:10; Titus 1:9; 2:1).

When studying the Bible, we discover that in God's design and plan men and women are physically and spiritually created equal (Gen. 1:27; Gal. 3:28), but they still maintain different roles.

For the past 40 years the traditional language for God has come under fire. Feminist theologians unanimously agree that masculine words for God, especially Father, must be removed from our theological vocabulary. For the church to be inclusive, they argue, it must replace man-centered language with language that accounts for both male and female.

Furthermore, they argue that since our human words cannot adequately portray God's fullness, no single characterization will suffice. Underlying this view is a belief that terms like father and mother are mere human characterizations of God (anthropomorphic expressions) that are shaped by specific cultural and backgrounds. We are then told that the predominantly masculine images of God found in the Bible reflect an ancient patriarchal society that dishonored women and this is why there is a wrong emphasis on the male gender which is reflected in the ancient writings of the Bible.

As a consequence, critics say, the Bible has absorbed biased and ancient patriarchal values, which in turn are used to justify beliefs that harm or subjugate women today. Theology, therefore, must be reconstructed to yield a valid religion for women based on a woman's modern-day experience. Of course, anybody who interprets the Bible as recording ancient patriarchal bias which must be revised and reinterpreted for modern society does not have a low view of inspiration; they totally disregard the inspiration of Scripture (2 Tim. 3:16) and trustworthiness of the Bible (2 Tim. 2:15 – "the word of truth"). The Bible is not filled with the biased reasoning's of man but is the absolute standard and final authority of recorded truth. There is a Satanic attack against the Bible today (Gen. 3:1) and we had better stand on the Word of God.

In "The Bible as a Source of Empowerment for Women" Professor Ms. King states: "In Corinthians there are clear passages that suppress women and, although we can understand the reasons and the context in which they were written, the question we raise is: Why are these passages emphasized in the Church? Why is there stress

on Genesis 2, where Eve is created from Adam's rib, rather than on the Genesis 1 version of creation, 'God created humanity in his own image; male and female he created them?' Why do we concentrate on oppressive passages in the epistles rather than on the liberative example of Jesus in the Gospels? One of the particular problems in our community is the literal and legalistic way in which Scripture is understood and the unwillingness to see the spirit of the Scriptures rather than the letter of the law" (Page 211).

The problem with feminism and any cult today is that they refuse to take God at His Word and try and exchange the true and literal meaning of the Bible for myths and feel good theology.

2 Timothy 4:3

"For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears."

The world is turning away from God quickly during these perilous times (2 Tim. 3:1). What has the world come to when professed "Christian" professors teaching in religious universities are promoting feminism? It is apostasy and wickedness. Let me make it clear that feminism is evil.

Must we really refer to God via masculine terms? The question has nothing to do with what we would like to do, but rather with what God tells us to do. To conclude that God's gender does not matter is to say either that all the masculine imagery is not inspired, is merely human in origin, or else that, though inspired, it is quite arbitrary and unessential. This kind of reasoning is preposterous and unbelieving.

The Women's Liberation Movement not only attempts to change the Bible to fit its ideology; it also tries and change God. By rejecting the clear revelation of Scripture and creating another God they can somehow justify and promote their sexist revolution against the Bible and God. The commandment of God is clear: "Thou shalt have no other gods before me" (Exodus 20:3).

One woman wrote: "Most readers by now probably are aware that I try not to use "he" for God because in today's world, in English, that

“he” is not understood as a generic, nonsexual term.” Another woman said, “Now that my image of God has both male and female attributes, I find God more approachable.”

Of course, God is never called a she in the Bible. He is always called a “he.” These kooky women are trying to create what we might call an androgynous God or a God that is neither specifically masculine nor feminine. The “God is a woman” teaching has been around for some time but with the continuing push of feministic teaching on the church there is a need to restate what the Bible actually says about the revelation of God’s being and existence. Error must be combated with the truth. The wrong must be made right in light of the drift of the times.

I’m tired of reading the hermeneutical or interpretive oddities that are devised to reinterpret and corrupt (2 Cor. 4:2) the plain meanings of Biblical texts to support feministic interpretations. The bottom line is this. Controversy is necessary where truth matters and serious error continues to be spread in the church. Therefore, we must also get in the battle (2 Tim. 4:7; Jude 3). We are commissioned to “prove all things” (1 Thess. 5:21) or test everything by the impeccable standard of God’s truth and to fight for the truth or “hold fast” (Rev. 2:25; 3:11 – “seize or retain”) to the absolute standard of truth until Jesus returns.

God often allows false teaching to come into the church to test our hearts. Will we be faithful to Him and obey His Word or not? God often allows false teaching to spread among His people as a means of testing us, to see what our response will be to Him and His truth. In the Old Testament God allowed false prophets to come among the people to test them. He said in Deuteronomy 13:3, “Thou shalt not hearken unto the words of that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams: for the LORD your God proveth you, to know whether ye love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul.”

This has been a principle of God’s action throughout history. God often allows various kinds of false teaching to exist in the church, probably in every generation, in order to test His people. He wants to see whether or not they are going to be faithful to the Word of God or give in to the error of the day. Dear friend, I’m not giving in to feminism, pragmatism or any other “ism” today.

We must be faithful to the teachings about Biblical manhood and womanhood and defend the revelation of God to mankind. I'm going to stand my ground. If we move one spiritual inch from obeying God and doing what is right, we will start down a precipice to which there will be no return. Many today are determined to drive the square peg of feminism into the round hole of Scripture's clear teaching. We must submit to Scripture on this issue and every issue and stop masking the masculinity of God's Word.

Cameron Buettel said:

"The true student of Scripture must be willing to listen and submit to it rather than correct its author when He violates our modern cultural sensibilities."

The defense of masculine imagery for God rests on the premise that the Bible is divine revelation and is not culturally bound, negotiable and changeable.

We must stop marrying or joining feminist ideology to Scripture. Egalitarianism (a French word meaning equality) is applied to the feminist reinterpreting of Scripture and is one of the most obvious examples of the culture's corrupting influence on the church.

God reveals Himself in the male gender and portrays Himself as a man.

This truth is seen in two ways.

- I. The general observation of God

- A. The revelation of God in the male gender.

It's true, the Bible reveals God in the male gender. Some people will immediately declare by this bold statement that I am "sexist" but in reality I am a Biblicist seeking to maintain the clear truth of God's standard and revelation as found in the Bible. The feminist movement is really no different than a cult because like a cult it seeks to destroy the truth and the revelation of God's eternal being and existence to humanity through Jesus Christ.

"Feminist Theology" is a misnomer. Although the term may sound impressive, feminism goes with theology (the study of God) as much as witchcraft would go with theology. Of course, witchcraft is rebellion against God (1 Sam. 15:23) and any kind of "Witchcraft Theology" (including feminism teaching) would be totally contradictory and absurd to God and His Word. The same is true of Feminist Theology. It is a total disregard for the truth of God's Word and is therefore

As we begin our study, we must remember that God in His eternal being does not have a gender. He is neither male nor female from a biological standpoint. Gender is a biological characteristic, and God in His eternal existence is not a biological being but a spirit being.

John 4:24

"God *is* a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship *him* in spirit and in truth."

The Bible teaches that God is Spirit (John 4:24) which is a declaration of His invisible nature (Col. 1:15; 1 Tim. 1:17). There is no definite article ("a") in the Greek language so it reads "God is Spirit" or "spirit" depending on how one translates the word *penuma* (spirit). The sense of the passage is that God is spirit as opposed to flesh. He is invisible, divine, and essentially unknowable. This is why Jesus came to reveal God to mankind. Jesus taught that a spirit does not have flesh and blood (Luke 24:39). Spirits are non-corporeal beings which means they possess no physical body, and thus, by definition, are incapable of possessing gender. In speaking of the humans who one day will inhabit the heavenly realm, Jesus remarked "For in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are as the angels (not angels!) of God in heaven" (Matthew 22:30). His point was that we shall not take up our earthly gender roles in Heaven, just as the angels, as spirit beings, have played no gender roles throughout their existence. In a similar way, God, who exists as a Spirit Being and inhabits the heavenly realm, has no gender.

At this point in our study, God's true nature needs to be understood. God is a Person since He exhibits all the characteristics of personhood: God has a mind, a will, an intellect, and emotions. God communicates and He has relationships and God's personal actions are evidenced throughout Scripture. However, since God is a spiritual

being, He does not possess physical human characteristics in His eternal existence.

Sometimes figurative language is attributed or assigned to God to help us understand Him better. This assignment of human characteristics to describe God is called “anthropomorphism.” Anthropomorphism is simply a means for God (a spiritual being) to communicate truth about His nature to humanity or physical beings. Since humanity is physical, we are limited in our understanding of those things beyond the physical realm; therefore, anthropomorphism in Scripture helps us to understand who God is.

There are those who teach that since God exists as a spirit (John 4:24) that He therefore is gender neutral and does not want to be revealed as either male or female. We have heard many wrongly attribute God as a “she, her, or mother-god” but these are not found in Scripture and these are an insult to God. There are also Bibles that have made God out to be gender-neutral. They are also pushing for a “gay Bible.” This is utter wickedness. Gender neutral Bibles are committing a terrible atrocity against God’s Word and eternal truth because the Bible in both the Hebrew and Greek languages God is always referred to in the masculine by name. In the Bible God is always referred to in the masculine gender.

Yes, we know that God is a spiritual being and does not possess the physical characteristics of a man since spirits do not possess physical bodies. Nevertheless, this does not limit how God chooses to reveal Himself to humanity. Scripture contains all the revelation God gave to humanity about Himself, and so it is the only objective source of information about God. In looking at what Scripture tells us, there are several observations of evidence about the form in which God revealed Himself to humanity.

Throughout both the Old and New Testaments, whenever reference is made to God (or, for that matter, to the other two members of the Godhead) a male pronoun (He, Him, His, etc.) is always employed or given to Him. God is NEVER presented as a she or her in the Bible. Scripture repeatedly address God as the Father (2 Thess. 1:1-2; 2:16; 1 Tim. 1:2, Titus 1:4; Philemon 3; 1 Pet. 1:3; 1 Jn. 1:3). This reminds us that God has chosen to reveal Himself to humanity in the

male gender. In fact, God identifies Himself as both the Father and the Son (Jesus Christ). These expressions clearly reveal Himself to be a man and this is the way God presents and represents Himself over and over again throughout Scripture (Genesis 3:8; 18:1-19:1; 32:22-30; Hosea 12:3-5; Judges 13:2-23).

Proverbs 30:5-6

“Every word of God *is* pure: he *is* a shield unto them that put their trust in him. Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar.”

- God explicitly calls Himself a man (Genesis 32:24; Joshua 5:13; Zechariah 6:12; Jeremiah 23:5-6)
- God is addressed by others as a man (Judges 13:6, 8, 10-11).
- God in Judges 13:11 specifically confirms He is the man.

Male names or terms are applied to God, Christ, and the Holy Spirit throughout Scripture. The major names for God such as Yahweh, Elohim, Adonai, Kurios, and the well-known Theos are all in the masculine gender. The New Testament Epistles (from Acts to Revelation) contains nearly 900 verses where the word God “theos”, a masculine noun in the Greek language, is used in direct reference to God. In countless references to God in Scripture there is clearly a consistent pattern of God being referenced with masculine titles, nouns, and pronouns. This means that while God in His eternal being is not a physical man, He chose a masculine form in order to reveal Himself to humanity in both Scripture and through the revelation of Jesus Christ.

We will also see in this study that Jesus Christ is also constantly referred to with masculine titles, nouns, and pronouns, took a male form while He walked on the earth. The prophets of the Old Testament and the apostles of the New Testament refer to both God and Jesus Christ with masculine names and titles. God chose to be revealed in this form in order for man to more easily grasp who He is.

Ms. King, the feminist theologian, says:

"God as mother and woman challenges the old concept that emphasized, along with other attributes, God as immutable and unchangeable."

This is an incredibly naive and wicked statement. The immutability of God means the inability to change. Therefore, God is a holy God, a God of moral perfection and nothing will ever change this! Furthermore, God's perfect character and goodness and revelation of His eternal being CANNOT be compromised by feminism.

Feminists and others suggest that the male and female creation in Genesis 1:27, which is patterned after God, suggests that God does not want to represent himself in a specific gender and that He is androgynous.

In Hank Hanegraaff's "The Complete Bible Answer Book" He answers the question, "Does God Have a Gender?" After quoting Genesis 1:27 Hank answers, "As God created both male and female in his image, he does not participate in one or the other gender, but rather transcends gender" (p. 102). Hank tries to pass off the revelation of God in both the male and female gender as only an anthropomorphic expression that God uses to reveal Himself to mankind and therefore assigns no real significance to God's male gender.

This is an erroneous conclusion. We must simply understand that God is not posting a revelation of His male gender in Genesis 1:27. This is not His purpose for Genesis 1:27. Of course, God in His eternal being does not possess a biological gender but He does reveal Himself in the masculine gender even though He does not choose to do so in Genesis 1:27.

Hank forgets that Jesus came into the world to give even a clearer picture of God to mankind and Jesus was a man and will forever be a man (1 Tim. 2:5). It's rather obvious that Jesus Christ came in the form of a human man to die on the cross as payment for the sins of the world. Like God the Father, Jesus was revealed to humanity in a male form. Scripture records numerous other instances where Christ utilized masculine nouns and pronouns in reference to God.

Despite Hanegraaff's claim, God clearly DOES participate in one gender. The "likeness" of Genesis 1:27 is not referring to God's "gender neutral being" since the image of God has nothing to do with physical characteristics but to incorporeal (unseen) personality. Like God, He gave to mankind (both male and female) a mind, will,

intellect, emotions, moral, and spiritual capacity that the animal kingdom does not possess.

This brings up the age-old question. Why did God create Eve? Someone humorously suggested it's because God worried that Adam would always be lost in the garden because He knew men would never ask for directions. Another claimed that God created a woman because God knew that Adam would never remember which night was garbage night and take out the garbage. Why did God create women? Some suggest that God took one look at men and said, "I know I can do better than this."

The thought of Eve's creation brings us to our next point.

B. The reason God reveals Himself in the male gender.

The reason God reveals Himself in the male gender is because of the Biblical teaching and figure of male leadership and authority. But the feminist movement is playing games with God's gender to support the theory that man and maleness was not created to possess leadership and authority over women. Again, the fundamental error of the feminist interpreters of Scripture is to assume that the reflection of God's image (Gen. 1:27) means that both man and woman would possess the same roles and authority. This is an absurd understanding of this creation account. As previously mentioned, to be created in the image of God does not mean sameness in roles and authority but sameness in constitutional design. Both male and female reflected God in relation to their rational and spiritual (moral) being. They were created to equally reflect God in their inner constitution or being (what it is to be human) but the message in Genesis 1:27 is not speaking of their outward roles.

Genesis chapter two destroys the thinking that both Adam and Eve share the same authority in creation. This is because the woman was created from the man and was brought to the man to be his follower.

Genesis 2:22

"And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man."

The fact that Eve was taken from the man and brought to the man means that she was given to him to be his follower and helper. God's appraisal of the matter of male leadership was also clearly seen when He confronted the original married couple. He spoke first to the head of the home - the man (Genesis 3:9). As men, we need to let God speak to our hearts once again concerning the serious nature of our leadership position in the home.

God coming to the man means that the man was in charge of his home. Let's get serious about this and stop following the culture. Men, more likely than not, when our homes fail it's because of the bad decisions and direction that we have taken our homes. God expects us to lead and not give in to female dominance and the lustful tendency for the female to overrule and dominate the relationship. God wants us to be spiritual, strong, and steady leaders in the family unit and anything less than this will cause God's divine order to be overturned and introduce our marriages and homes to disorder and missing out on God's perfect will for our home and marriage. Whenever God's blueprint is turned upside down, the home, family, and children ultimately suffer in some way.

Ludwig Von Beethoven had a life marked with both triumph & tragedy. By age 5 he was playing the violin. By age 13 he was a concert organist. He became a prolific composer, composing 9 magnificent symphonies, 5 concertos, countless pieces of chamber music, & music for the piano & the violin. But his life was marked with tragedy. By age 20 he was starting to lose his hearing. By 40, his hearing was almost gone. By 50, he was stone deaf. One day in his study he was heard pounding the piano & saying over & again, "I will take life by the throat & I'll never let go!"

Those who knew Beethoven said that he was the most persistent man they had ever met & that he accomplished far beyond normal human ability because he faced up to his difficulty & was determined to do something about it. Like Beethoven, God is looking for men who will stick to their role of God-given leadership and not let go. When we fail to be a leader we fail our families and our families in some way suffer for it. God is looking for men to step up to the plate and be who God intended them to be – examples and leaders in the home. It's time to man-up and be a leader in your home.

The Women's Liberation Movement has called for a reinterpretation of the Bible and in some cases a rejection of any part of the Bible that is Patriarchal (families, groups or governments lead and directed by men). Sadly, some have even rejected the Genesis account of creation because they can't believe in a God who would create men first and women second. It's clear that this is a movement that wants to destroy the Bible and God's plan for marriage and society.

Male leadership is clearly seen in Genesis chapter 2. Adam had the created responsibility to teach his wife what God has originally spoken to him (Genesis 2:15-17). Male leadership is seen since the female is twice stated to have been created to be "an help meet for him," or a helper suitable for the man (Genesis 2:18, 20). Genesis teaches that the woman was created for the man - not vice versa. Again, God brought the woman "to the man" (Genesis 2:22) as if she was made "for him" - not vice versa.

Adam confirmed this understanding by stating "the woman whom You gave to be with me" (Genesis 3:12). All of these statements explain why Paul argued in the Corinthian letter on the basis of this very distinction: "Neither was the man created for the woman; but the woman for the man" (1 Corinthians 11:9). All of these Scriptural statements clarify the implied and delegated authority of the man over the women. In fact, God gave Adam the privilege of naming the woman because she was created for the man to be his subordinate helper (Genesis 2:23; 3:20).

God's declaration to Eve in the Genesis curse (Genesis 3:16) reaffirms the fact that she was not originally created to yield to the inclination to take the lead in spiritual matters. However, as a result of sin entering the human race the feminist movement began. The woman was originally created to submit to the rule of her husband but Eve's attempt to reverse the roles and man following the woman resulted in the Genesis curse coming upon marriage and mankind.

It's interesting that when Adam and Eve were in the Garden of Eden, Eve sinned first, but the Bible reveals that sin entered the world through Adam (Romans 5:12). This means it was the man Adam who possessed representative authority, not Eve. This Biblical truth is called Federal Headship. It means that the man has always

possessed God-given headship. Jesus likewise possesses this same representative headship and authority since He was and still is a man (1 Tim. 2:5) who represented God in flesh (John 1:1, 14, Col. 2:9).

We must understand that when God said to Adam, “Because thou hast hearkened (heeded) unto the voice of thy wife...” (Genesis 3:17), He was calling attention to the fact that Adam had failed to exercise spiritual leadership, thereby undermining and circumventing (going around and ignoring) the divine arrangement of male-female relations.

The Jews understood this divinely designed order, evidenced by the practice of the firstborn male. God’s creation of the man first was specifically intended to communicate the authority/submission arrangement of the human race (1 Corinthians 11:8). In 1 Corinthians 11:7 Paul adds that the man “is the image and glory of God: but the woman is the glory of the man.” Paul also states in this text that man reflects a particular part and excellence (glory) of God’s image that the woman does not in that man was created as a sovereign ruler and given the privilege of ruling over the woman. Man was created to represent God in authority and rulership. Paul is simply saying that in the relationship between men and women, a man was created by God to reflect in a special way the ruling aspect of God’s image. He was given the right to rule in a way the woman was not.

This is why women are commanded to be in subjection to their husband’s leadership (Eph. 5:22-33) and that women are prohibited from teaching men in Christ’s church (1 Timothy 2:12–14). Both of those passages, read in their context, have clear universal application that transcends all culture and all time. This is because God takes the readers back to God’s original design in both creation (1 Tim. 2:13) and salvation (Eph. 5:22-23). In other words, the gender and roles of Biblical manhood and womanhood is a reflection of God’s order in both creation and salvation. And there is no Biblical precedent to overturn God’s original design in either creation or salvation. The roles of male leadership is grounded in Creation – not culture. It is patterned after salvation and not patriarchal bias.

In creation God made the original man to be the leader and director of the woman. In a similar way, man is to be a leader in marriage and

within society. In salvation, Jesus Christ as head over the Church gave His life for the Church. In a similar way, the man is to be the sacrificial head and leader of the wife in the marriage relationship. So the foundational structures of both creation and salvation reflect the headship of man over the woman. This means you can't change God's design unless you try and undo the foundation of God's creative and saving purpose. Sadly, this is what people are doing in arguing against a literal creation account and undermining God's wonderful plan of salvation through the teachings of Liberation Theology and Feminist Theology.

Paul is saying that God's original design for the human race involved the creation of the male first as an indication of his responsibility to be the spiritual leader of the home. He was created to function as the head or leader in the home and in the church. Woman, on the other hand, was specifically designed and created for the purpose of being a subordinate and assistant to man, though not inferior.

God could have created the woman first, but He did not. He could have created both male and female simultaneously, but He did not. His order and action of creation was intended to convey His will with regard to the genders of the human race and as it relates to the interrelationship between the man and woman.

1 Timothy 2:14

“And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression.”

Observe that Paul elaborates on this principle of male leadership which is stated in 1 Timothy 2:12-13 by noting an example of what can happen when men and women tamper with God's original intentions and gender roles. In other words, deception and misery follows in many homes today and in the world at large when God's blueprint is not followed.

When Eve took the spiritual initiative and leadership above her husband, and Adam failed to take the lead and exercise spiritual authority over his wife, Satan was able to wreak havoc on the home and cause the introduction of sin into the world (Genesis 3). When Paul said the woman was deceived, he was not suggesting that

women are more gullible than men. Rather, what he was teaching is that when men or women fail to confine themselves to their created function, but instead tamper with and act in violation of divinely intended roles, spiritual vulnerability to sin naturally follows. In short, when men fail to lead and women ride over male leadership, only deception and heartache can result. A marriage will be out of God's will and purpose and be riddled with confusion and sin.

Paul then concludes his instructions by noting how women may be preserved from falling into the same trap of woman dominance over the man and assuming unauthorized authority by saying "She shall be saved in childbearing" (1 Timothy 2:15). The word "childbearing" speaks of the performance of maternal duties which is the woman's role. Paul is referring to the whole of female responsibility when using this word. What is being taught here in the Word of God is that women may avoid getting involved in illicit functions of leadership roles and authority by concentrating on the functions originally assigned to them by God and live out a godly life that involves "faith and charity and holiness with sobriety."

The best interpretation of this passage seems to be that a woman is "saved" or delivered from wearing the label of "the one who was deceived" by performing the role God ordained for her in the first place and living out a life of a godly and submissive woman. Some argue that this text only applies to husbands and wives rather than to men and women in general living within society. However, the context of 1 Timothy is not the home, but the church (1 Timothy 3:15) which means that God's original design in Genesis has universal effect on society in general and not merely home life. God's blueprint in Genesis involves every segment of society (the home, church, government, etc). Likewise, the use of the plural "women" (1 Thess. 2:9) and the absence of the Greek article in 1 Timothy 2:11 ("Let women") suggests women in general. Nothing in the context would cause one to conclude that Paul was referring only to husbands and wives. Why would Paul restrict wives from leadership roles in the church but then permit single women to lead in the church?

The important question is why does God reveal Himself as a man and constantly refer to Himself in the male gender? One of the most obvious reasons for the revelation of God in the male gender is

because of the chain of headship and authority that God has given to us in the Bible. The male was created by God to be a leader in the home and society (Gen. 2; 1 Tim. 2:13; 1 Cor. 11:8) and this headship principle is reflected in God's identification of His eternal being in the male gender.

Since God designed male headship and leadership for the home, church, and society He reveals Himself in the masculine gender and as a Father and Son to portray authority and reflect masculine leadership. The male and Father and Son image of God stresses leadership and authority over the human race. This is what the feminists hate and why they want to turn God into a mother instead of a father.

If red lights are viewed as green lights and green lights are viewed as red lights in our traffic world, we will suddenly experience chaos and misery. The same is true regarding our marriage. If we change the pattern of marriage, we will experience hardship and great difficulty.

Application Questions:

- As the man, are you ready to take on a leadership role in your family? Are you ready to stand up and be a spiritual leader? Are you ready to set the kind of example that God wants you to be?
- As a woman, are you ready to follow your husband's direction and leadership? Are you ready to be a godly wife and follow your husband?

Some women lead from behind in their attitudes, opposition, complaining, anger and hounding of the man as he tries to lead the family unit. As we have seen in the first part of this study, when God's order is not followed, everyone suffers in the family unit – men, women, and children. There can be serious consequences when the roles are reversed. The consequences of such things as divorce, broken homes, children raised by people who are not even their parents and living outside of God's will leads only to disaster!

If you believe that you are your own person, even in marriage, you are dividing the unity which God has established in marriage: "The two will become one flesh." This means that we are not separate but

one and only when we follow God's design for marriage can we experience this unity. Why not be what God wants you to be? Why not follow the roles of manhood and womanhood in your marriage?

Men, it's time to change! It's time to set the example and be the kind of leader God wants you to be. Ladies, it's time to stop kicking against the pricks as Paul said (Acts 9:5). You need to become the kind of supporting woman that God wants you to be. Remember that you can't change the basic ingredients of a cake mix (sugar, dough, and flavoring) and expect it to rise, taste, and turn out right. The same is true regarding marriage. If you try and change the order, then your marriage will not turn out right. You will have hardships instead of the blessing that Peter promises that we can have heirs together of the grace of life (1 Pet. 3:7).

Al Gore has written a book entitled "Earth in the Balance, Ecology and the Human Spirit." Gore's involvement in ecology is an expression of his belief. His belief is in the connectedness of all things (people, earth or Mother Earth as it is called). He says, "In the great value of all religious faiths and the hope that ancient pagan goddess worship will help bring us planetary and personal salvation." In other words, the ancient goddess worship that is connected with the earth will help us to save the planet from destruction and also save our own souls. This guy is a maniac for ecology; he wants to save the planet (Mother Earth) through ancient pagan worship of female goddesses. This is blatant New Age stuff.

Did someone tell Al Gore that God, the God of the Bible, is not a goddess or a woman god? Undiscerning Christians can fall victim to these types of hellish heresies. This stuff is nothing more than "doctrines of demons" (1 Tim. 4:1), hellish heresies, and Satanic lies.

II. In the specific points about God.

We now want to look at the gender of God in a more specific way as it is revealed in the Bible.

A. God is presented as the Father.

In this point we are getting more specific about the way God reveals Himself. God identifies Himself as the Father (Matt. 6:9; Isa. 9:6; Eph. 1:2; 1 Thess. 3:13; James 1:17) – not the mother! It would be erroneous, blasphemy, unbiblical and sacrilegious to call God a woman or mother. The attempt to change the revelation of God's existence is heresy.

Scripture contains approximately 170 references to God as the "Father." By necessity, God cannot be a father unless He presents Himself as a male. If God had chosen to be revealed to man in a female form, then the word "mother" would have occurred in these places, not "father."

Once again, in both the Old and New Testaments, masculine pronouns are used over and over again in reference to God. Jesus Christ referred to God as the Father. In the Gospels alone, Christ uses the term "Father" in direct reference to God nearly 160 times (John 14:1-6).

In the New Testament, God's fatherhood conveys three distinct ideas.

1. Fatherhood is reflected in the Trinity of God.

The masculinity of the Father refers to the internal relationship within the Trinity. If we get rid of the term Father, we are going to get rid of the Trinity. This is a serious theological error and apostasy. The Bible teaches that Jesus possessed a relationship with the Father (John 10:30; Matt. 28:19) and this reveals a unique relationship between the Father and Son that ultimately leads to both the deity of Christ and the Trinitarian doctrine.

John 5:18

"Therefore the Jews sought the more to kill him, because he not only had broken the sabbath, but said also that God was his Father, making himself equal with God."

Christians have good reasons to insist on addressing God as Father. The expression of God as father is not a culturally conditioned term but the proper name of God given by divine revelation. It is how God is primarily identified or named in relation to His Son. When we get rid

of the Father, at stake is the Trinitarian identity of the Godhead. Playing the inclusive language game has a high theological cost attached to it.

2. Fatherhood is reflected in our personal relationship with God.

The masculinity of God the Father points to our own relationship that we can have with God. Jesus taught his disciples to call God "your heavenly Father" (Matt. 6:1, 8-9, 14, 26, 32). This means that the loving relationship He has with the Father from eternity now extends to those who even in the Church Age are adopted into God's family (Rom. 8:15). The father-son relationship is the most intimate personal relationship, one marked by reciprocal love and respect, and it is God's supremely personal and loving nature that the term father is meant to underscore.

If we pray, "Our mother which art in Heaven" we have committed blasphemy against God! To claim, as many feminist theologians do, that the very presence of masculine metaphors for God excludes women having a relationship with God simply does not square with the way Scripture uses the term Father. Masculine images of God are not given to exclude women from having a relationship with God but they are given so His people might possess a loving relationship with Him as a child does with his father.

For example, Isaiah 54:5–7 refers to God as the Husband who possesses deep compassion for Israel who is calling estranged Israel back to Himself (Isa. 49:13). The term father does not exclude compassion and relational fellowship with women.

Romans 8:15

"For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father."

In contrast to being controlled by sin (vv. 12-13), which enslaves us and ultimately brings us into judgment as an unbeliever, every believer has received the Spirit of "adoption" or sonship. The word translated "sonship" literally means "placing as a son" and is frequently translated "adoption" (as in vs. 23). Believers are adopted sons (Gal. 4:5; Eph. 1:5) and are no longer the slaves to sin without

any hope of deliverance from sin's power and God's judgment (Gal. 4:7). Instead, we have become accepted into the family of God and have been given all the rights, privileges, and blessings of sonship.

The greatest blessing of all is that we no longer must live bound to sin and fear God's wrath and judgment against our lives. Instead of this, we can approach God as a loving Father and find His help, healing, and encouragement. Therefore, as a son we have been delivered from our past enslavement of sin and no longer must fear being controlled by sin and separated from God. Now, Christians can approach God in an intimate way calling Him Abba, Father. "Abba" is a Greek and English transliteration of the Aramaic word for father which is used elsewhere in the New Testament only in Mark 14:36; Gal. 4:6.

We have a son/father relationship with God. He has made us His sons and delivered us from hell and the power of sin forever. Therefore, we can come to God for help and know that He always receives us as a loving father receives His son. The Holy Spirit has delivered us from the fear of our past and brought us into a new loving and intimate relationship with the Father whereby we can call Him "Abba Father" and totally depend upon Him for help, victory, love, and acceptance.

Abba is actually an intimate form of the word father such as "papa" or "daddy." While we may hesitate to use such familiar English words in addressing God, the truth remains that God who is infinitely high is also intimately nigh.

Galatians 4:6

"And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father."

We once again see this precious name assigned to the Father. This means we have this intimate and very close relationship with the Father which is revealed to us by the Holy Spirit. It means we come to God as a son comes to a loving father and find God's loving acceptance, embrace, care, and provision for our daily lives. Our relationship with God is to be one of intimacy, nearness, and love. It's

not to be one that is filled with unhealthy fear, rejection, and withdrawal.

Yes, God is our Abba Father - not our mommy! God does not reveal Himself to His children as a mother but as a father. God has chosen to reveal Himself in the masculine gender.

Major religious groups even have begun altering their views on God and the language they use to express those views. In the “Inclusive Language Lectionary” produced by the U.S. Council of Churches, the word for God (Abba) has been changed from “Father” to “Father and Mother,” and the word for His relationship to God has been altered from “son” to “child” (Reuther, 1988, p. 144).

At its annual conference in 1992, the Methodist Church in Great Britain concluded that “the use of female imagery is compatible with faithfulness to Scripture—indeed Scripture itself points in this direction and also gives us examples of that imagery.” The Methodist Faith and Order Commission thus recommended that, in order to avoid distortion of our image of God, both female and male images should be used to refer to Him/Her (Inclusive Language and Imagery about God, 1992).

But the Feminist Movement want to also destroy God's created order; destroy the integrity of Scripture; destroy the character of God the Father and God the Son.

3. Fatherhood is reflected in the creation of God.

The father metaphor also points to God as the Creator.

Isaiah 64:8

“But now, O LORD, thou *art* our father; we *are* the clay, and thou our potter; and we all *are* the work of thy hand.”

He is the father in the sense that God is the Creator of everything and everyone. As Dr. Scofield remarks, “Here the reference is to relationship through creation, rather than through faith, as in Acts 17:28, 29, *note*”

Malachi 2:10

“Have we not all one father? hath not one God created us? why do we deal treacherously every man against his brother, by profaning the covenant of our fathers?”

We all have “one father” in the sense that God is our Creator and is sovereign over the events of our lives. Sadly, the Father can be someone’s Creator while at the same time they may not have a true relationship with Him.

In a general sense, God is the Father of all mankind, meaning He is their Creator (Acts 17:28, 29). In a more restricted sense, He is the Father of all believers, meaning He has begotten them into His spiritual family (Gal. 4:6). In a unique sense He is the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, meaning that they are equal (John 5:18).

God the Father as the Creator demonstrates the difference between Christianity and ancient Near Eastern cultures. In the Judeo-Christian faith, God the Father created the world as something separate from himself, whereas in Near Eastern societies, the mother metaphor pictures the mother-goddess giving birth to the world (something she is actually part of).

Calling God the Mother undermines the entire Christian doctrine of Creation by implying that God and the world are made of the same stuff and virtually indistinguishable. So, we need God to be the Father in order to get to the correct doctrine of Creation.

4. Fatherhood is reflected in the sovereignty of God.

The term “Father” conveys sovereign authority, leadership and headship over the universe.

1 Corinthians 8:6

“But to us *there is but* one God, the Father, of whom *are* all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom *are* all things, and we by him.”

Just as God is the sovereign authority over everything, so earthly fathers were creatively designed to be leaders over their families, which indicates headship (1 Cor. 11:3; Eph. 5:23).

One who believes the Bible cannot get passed the fact that there is an issue of authority that is related to the male gender. Therefore, it makes Biblical sense to call God the Father and not God the mother. This is because the male gender, according to Biblical teaching, represents authority.

The radical element within the feminist movement has identified God as a mother or woman instead of acknowledging God as the Father, the Leader and Sustainer of everything in the universe. The foolish and unscriptural title given by a woman preacher, Mary Baker Eddy, "Our Father-Mother God," totally dishonors God.

God is not effeminate. God is not feminine, but masculine. The Bible reveals God as a masculine God. The masculine pronoun is used of God everywhere in the Bible. Once again, the Bible portrays God as the Father. He is never called the Mother but the Father.

Matthew 5:45

"That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust."

"Children of the heav'nly Father
Safely in His bosom gather;
Nestling bird nor star in Heaven
Such a refuge e'er was given."

We address God as a Father out of reverence and respect recognizing He is the authoritative Creator and Controller of the universe. To call Him a mother or woman is not only disrespectful but also blasphemous.

The feminists have made something out of Genesis 17:1 which likens God to a mother. El Shaddai is the Hebrew word for "Almighty." This is a compound name consisting of *El*, a shortened form of Elohim (the strong Creator) and *Shaddai*, the Hebrew word for almighty. The

Hebrew word for *shad* means breast (Gen. 49:25; Job 3:12, Ps. 22:9) and connotes that God is comparable to a woman with breasts who nourishes her young baby. In other words, God is portrayed as the God who supplies all of our spiritual needs as a woman satisfies the hungry child's needs upon her breast.

Scripture ascribes to God various feminine attributes such as compassionate nursing (Is. 49:15), motherly comfort (Is. 66:13) and carrying an infant (Is. 46:3). Feminine images are used throughout Scripture to describe God's loving nature. Examples include the frequent images of God nourishing, protecting and comforting his children (Isa. 66:12–13; Hos. 11:1–4). These are figures of speech presenting God as a caring mother. No one would deny this but it's important to note that God is never addressed as Mother. God is never given the gender of a woman or mother. It's one thing to describe God as possessing motherly characteristics, to define His loving compassion, but it's altogether different to call Him a mother.

Most ancient Near Eastern societies had a goddess as the main cult figure or at least to complement a male god - Asherah in Canaan, Isis in Egypt, Tiamat in Babylon. Of course, the motherly expressions of God are all beautiful pictures and expressions of His nature. However, once again, the feminists have taken something beautiful and turned into false teaching. They have assumed that this reference portrays God's sex as a mother and woman. Therefore, it's assumed that no person should simply talk about God as being the Father.

In fact, some have said that God should be considered in a generic fashion and we should call him something other than Father or Mother. Maybe we should call him "humanity." The point is this. God always addresses Himself as the "Father" while at the same time He assumes certain traits of a caring Mother to portray his tenderness and compassion upon people.

Many are saying today that the God of the Bible is above gender and He never intended to convey himself in any specific gender. If this is true, then why does God call Himself the "Father" and not the Mother? God portrays himself in the gender of a Father for only a

Father could send a son that would die on the cross and save lost humanity.

God is called the Father (not the Mother) for He is represented as the Leader and authority of all the universe. And someday the Father's Son is going to return and rule the universe as the "King of kings, and Lord of lords" (1 Tim. 6:15) – not Queen of Queens, and Ladies of Ladies." We can conclude that God is *indirectly* revealed in the female as well. However, once again we discover that God is never *directly* identified as a woman or mother in Scripture.

B. God is presented as a Son

God did not have a daughter die on the cross but a Son (John 3:16). The Son portrays the Father's existence as the true God and the last time I checked my Bible Jesus Christ was a male, a man, the Son of the living God. The abandonment of father/male language found in the Bible leaves a void at the heart of the Christian story.

A publisher is touting a new edition of the Gospels that identifies Christ as a woman named Judith Christ of Nazareth. The claim is made: "This long-awaited revised text of the Gospels makes the moral message of Christ more accessible to many, and more illuminating to all," says Billie Shakespeare, vice president for the publisher, in a statement. "It is empowering. We published this new Bible to acknowledge the rise of women in society."

The new version, according to the publisher, revises familiar stories, transforming the "Prodigal Son" into the "Prodigal Daughter" and the "Lord's Prayer" into the "Lady's Prayer." Of course, this type of thing is blasphemy and originates from the devil. Jesus is God and He is called "the man Christ Jesus" (1 Timothy 2:5). He is called "The son of God" (John 1:34; 5:25). Jesus revealed God to mankind and He was a man! A Son! He is called "the man of sorrows" (Isa. 53:3). The Scriptures are very clear; Jesus is the Father's Son and therefore God represents Himself as a man – not a woman.

C. God is presented as the Holy Spirit.

Feminist Theology teaches that the Holy Spirit is the feminine aspect of the Godhead. This too is a serious theological error. Cults always attack the personhood of the Holy Spirit.

In the Old Testament the “Holy Spirit” is mentioned in Psalm 51:11 and Isaiah 63:10-11. Hebrew scholars will tell you that the grammatical noun “Spirit” is feminine, but the adjective “Holy” is masculine. In the Greek New Testament several references to the “Holy Spirit” is neuter (Luke 3:22; John 14:26) which means neither the masculine nor feminine are assigned to the Holy Spirit. However, we must understand that the neuter reference to the Holy Spirit is only a reflection of the spiritual nature of God’s eternal being (John 4:24). This is true in both Old and New Testaments. The Holy Spirit is a spiritual being and therefore in pure substance cannot be identified as either male or female.

Spirit beings, like the Holy Spirit, are non-corporeal beings which means they possess no physical body; therefore, they are incapable of possessing gender. As we’ve seen at the beginning of this study, God in relation to His eternal being (a spiritual being) is neither male nor female. However, the way the Holy Spirit is revealed to mankind in the Bible is in the male gender. This is why the Holy Spirit is repeatedly assigned personal pronouns which are male. The Holy Spirit is given male pronouns as another way to reflect the revelation of God’s eternal being to mankind.

John 14:26

“But the Comforter, *which is* the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.”

John 16:13

“Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, *that* shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.”

John 14:26 (King James Version)

“But the Comforter, *which is* the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.”

You will note once again that the masculine pronoun “he” is critically important, which give very plain evidence that there is NO female aspect of the GODHEAD. However, the New International Version leaves out the masculine gender of the Holy Spirit in John 14:26.

John 14:26 (New International Version - 2010)

“But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.”

The revelation of the Holy Spirit, as being part of the Godhead, is always in the male gender. To remove the personal pronoun describing the male gender to the Holy Spirit is a travesty upon the Holy Spirit’s person, the Trinity, and what the Bible teaches regarding the revelation of the Spirit’s existence.

Today undiscerning Christians are falling victims to the hellish heresies of the Feminist Movement and the tentacles of this movement have been finding their way into Christian thinking which results in women rising up against male leadership in the home and church. We need to stop muting the masculinity of God’s Word and seeking to change the revelation of God’s character.

When did the feminist Movement begin? You might say the 1960’s but you are wrong. It began when Eve tried to usurp authority over the man and it has been going on ever since.

Genesis 3:16

“Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire *shall be* to thy husband (to rule over him in a controlling and leading manner), and he shall rule over thee” (in a dominate and unloving manner).

This is when the battle of the sexes began. The Women’s Liberation Movement stems back to the Genesis Fall. May God give us a Biblically discerning, sanctified and holy approach to our homes and churches today. The inroads of the Feminist Movement is raising havoc in marriages because it goes against God’s design.

The "Declaration of Feminism" goes back to November of 1971 when they laid out their agenda and this is what it says, "The end of the institution of marriage is necessary for the liberation of women; therefore, it is important for us to encourage women to leave their husbands and not live individually with men. All of history must be rewritten in terms of oppression of women. We must go back to ancient female religions like witchcraft!" Mark that, "We must go back to ancient female religions like witchcraft!"

Radical feminism today is promoting that women must be liberated and that they can redeem humanity or they can save humanity from the cultural error it has propagated for thousands of years. This kind of rhetoric is everywhere.

Radical feminist leader Sheila Cronam, who is oft quoted by the way, says this, "Since marriage constitutes slavery for women, it is clear that the women's movement must concentrate on attacking this institution. Freedom for women cannot be won without the abolition of marriage."

Anne Lori Gaylor writing an article called "Feminist Salvation" in the "Humanist" in 1988 says, "Let's forget about the mythical Jesus and look for encouragement, solace, and inspiration from real women. 2,000 years of patriarchal rule under the shadow of the cross ought to be enough to turn women towards the feminist salvation of the world."

Dr. Mary Jo Bane, feminist, Assistant Professor of Education at Welsley College, the Associate Director of the school's Centre for Research on Women, writes, "In order to raise children with equality we must take them away from families and communally raise them."

And then there is the well-known name, Margaret Sanger, the founder of Planned Parenthood, writing an article called "Women in the New Race," says this, "The most merciful thing a large family can do to one of its infant members is to kill it."

The Feminist Movement is often radical but one thing is certain; it's always unbiblical. We cannot think lightly about this agenda. We must expose it and not allow it to affect our marriages and churches.

Feminism and feminist teaching actually stems from ancient Gnosticism. Many do not realize this. It was not a new concept in the late 60's and 70's. In Gnostic teaching Eve was the saviour of Adam and the spiritual or heavenly Eve was the personification of wisdom in the serpent who became the instructor, and by thus, his instruction sets out to save men.

In the Gnostic system, Eve dominates Adam and sexual roles are totally altered. In fact, in Gnostic teaching *the divine revealer* was feminine and said, "I am Androgynous. I am both mother and father, it is through me alone that the all stands firm. I am the womb that gives shape to the all by giving birth to the light that shines in splendour. I am the aeon to come. I am the fulfilment of the all, that is, the glory of the mother."

All of this double-talk simply means that Gnosticism wants to wipe out all sexual distinction. There are Gnostic texts where God the Creator is castigated by a higher feminine power. This is the heavenly Eve called "Sophia." And, "God the Creator," according to Gnostic teaching, "finally learned that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom." In other words, He learned to fear the feminine "Sophia," so that the God of the Bible is now in fear of the feminine god "Sophia." The ideal behind the teaching of Gnosticism was to become sexless. It promoted a radical refusal of sexual differentiation and a complete confusion of sexual identity and God's intended roles.

This is really what is behind today's feminist movement. This is not some whimsical deal that popped up in the 20th century by a few women who wanted to take off the apron and buy a briefcase. This is not something that was invented by women who wanted to abort their babies and get into the corporate halls and the executive washrooms. This "New Age" thinking or the Women's Liberation Movement is nothing but "Gnosticism." "New Age" is a new way of talking about age-old Gnosticism. When people are teaching that female power is the key to salvation we can be sure that the "Goddess Cult" of Gnosticism is back!

One of the most devastating, debilitating, and destructive movements in our day has been the "Feminist Movement." It has not only changed the world but has also changed the church. As a result, the

Word of God is being dishonored; opponents are having plenty bad to say about us and God our heavenly Father and Savior is being dishonored and shamed.

There are many churches that are now accepting female elders. People ask me, "What do you think about women pastors?" We might answer them in this way. "We should never think about them!" This is because the Bible categorically condemns them in the place of leadership and teaching over the corporate church.

1 Timothy 2:12

"But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence."

This desire to force women leadership in the church is the result of the church wanting to accommodate itself to society. The books that have been written by women and in some cases by men are teaching that whenever the Bible mentions male leadership, it's either cultural, it's either Paul repeating his opinion or we're misinterpreting it. In every case, they ultimately have to say, "Not all of what Paul said is the revelation of God. Some of it was his own opinion, and when he gave it, he was wrong." Of course, this destroys the inspiration of God's Word.

Here is a closing prayer, given by John MacArthur, in one of his sermons dealing with the Women's Liberation Movement. It's well said and fitting for the close of this study. It should be our heart's desire.

"But, Lord, as we look at the world around us we can see that sinners aren't just content with their sin, they have to be able to defend it and they go to unbelievable extremes to invent wild things. Well, not really invent, to buy into satanic lies to justify their iniquity, to justify their godlessness, to justify their hatred of Christ, to justify their lust, their pride, their unwillingness to obey. And, Lord, help us to storm the fortress with the truth, the precious truth of Your Word, not only saying it but in living it because in the end those people have disastrous lives, devastated, shattered, broken. Help them to see the joy of godly marriages, the beauty of genuine love, the wonder of a happy home where Christ is king. Use us, Lord, in our time to tear

down the fortresses and build strong marriages that men and women may see the testimony of Your power in our lives and be drawn to Christ. Cause many sinners to repent of these kinds of terrible sins and bow their knee to Christ. Save some rabid feminists and may their testimony go far and wide across this earth of what You have wrought in their hearts and may You receive the glory, Father, in our lives in every area in Christ's name. Amen.”