

Dialog with The DaVinci Code: The Sacred Feminine by Ken Wilson
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Background Considerations:

We like to reduce things, including God, to simple formulas. (But God is complex)
Some say we're in a "culture war." (But whose war is that, anyway?)
In this climate, conversation is difficult....

Gnosticism had many approaches to "the sacred feminine."
Many drawn to sacred feminine in reaction against patriarchy (male rule.)

So what's biblical view of God's gender?

"*In the beginning, God...*" *elohim*, masculine, plural noun [majesties

"*the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters*" *Ruah*:, spirit; feminine noun

First image of God: humanity, male and female

Next name: YHWH "I AM WHO AM"

So is God male or female? Jewish and Christian tradition affirm: "He's beyond both."

The problem of language.

+ metaphors

+ no God-invented languages

+ God uses our invention to communicate with us

Gnostic vision of God, no direct contact with material world.

Biblical vision: God gets dirt on his hands; enters messy human experience

Most personal metaphors used to describe God are masculine: Master, King.

Why not male & female in equal measure?

Even though Bible written in/to/from a patriarchal culture many feminine images of God.

"*Ruah*"

Isaiah speaks of God as nursing mother: *Isaiah 49:*

Psalms 131

Womb language applied to God: Job 38:29; Dt. 32: 14; Heb. "Compassion"

Romans 8: 22-23, 26

Jesus as mother images: Luke 13: 34

God as woman in parable of lost coin (see Luke 15)

Lady Wisdom in Bible: Proverbs 1-9 *Proverbs 9:1-6* is an image of Lady Wisdom building a house, laying a sumptuous feast with wine and inviting us in. Allurement language.

Jesus identifies with Lady Wisdom, "Wisdom will be justified by her children" (Luke 7:35)
St. Paul calls Jesus "The Wisdom of God"
Is there feminine in the divine? Of course! Will cultural systems suppress, under-state,
fail to emphasize feminine images of God in Bible? DUH!

So why not just let her rip, kneel before earth-mother and worship the sacred feminine?

The authentic divine transcends all the phallic god and multi-breasted goddess stuff of
ancient paganism.

No summons in Bible to worship "the sacred masculine."
No summons to worship "the sacred feminine"

At the core, the biblical revelation of God isn't male or female.
In Christ Jesus, St. Paul said, "*there is no male or female*"

We are all of us, males and females, sons of God.
We are all of us, males and females, the bride of Christ.
The Bible respects maleness and femaleness, declare it good;
But ultimately the Bible "relativizes" male and female.

Hint from heaven: maleness and femaleness are not the ultimate realities, not the end of
the line, or the living center of God.

Maleness and femaleness are signs of something else and that something else is
relationship.

Maleness and femaleness point to something beyond them which is the heart's true
home: the "relational love-bliss within God."

God wants to share that with us! This is the awesome and unique revelation of God in
the Bible. God is personal, but even more amazing, is relational within himself.

Progressive revelation of this in Bible, culminating in vision of God as Father, Son, Holy
Spirit. God is Love. Is irreducible relationship!

Greatest sign of God in the created universe is humanity: male and female. Capable of
amazing wonder, beauty and joy; and highest of humanity's capacities that magic that
happens between people, called LOVE.

We are not summoned into the Sacred Masculine or the Sacred Feminine.
We are summoned into the Sacred Sacred and the Sacred Human, united.

