

Amen or Awoman?

Sunday AM 01/10/21

Introduction:

On January 3rd Representative Emanuel Cleaver from Kansas City said the following prayer, ""And dare I ask, oh Lord, peace even in this chamber now and evermore," "We ask it in the name of the monotheistic god, Brahma, and god known by many names by many different faiths. Amen and awoman." Combine this with the House making some rules excluding gender terms. Gender neutral terms: The term seamen will be replaced with seafarers. Chairman will become chair. ■ Terms for familial relationships — such as mother, father, daughter, son, sister and brother — will be swapped with terms such as parent, child and sibling. ■ The phrase “submit his or her resignation” will be replaced with “resign.” ■ The phrases “he or she serves” and “he or she holds” will be replaced with “such Member, Delegate, or Resident Commissioner” serves or holds, respectively.

The prayer and such gender-neutral terms have been criticized and made fun of:

Amen - Awomen

Regimen - Regiwomen

Omen - Owomen

Specimen - Speciwomen

Acumen - Acuwomen

Lumen - Luwomen

Mentally-Womantally

Manure—womanure

Manifestation— womanfestation

Roman – Rowoman

Manicure—womanicure

Romans 1:22 Professing to be wise, they became fools, 23 and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man--and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things.

I) Gender Neutral V. Gender Change

A) Not a new concept

1. Mary Baker Eddy lived in 1800's and was founder of the Church of Christ Scientist
2. Mary Baker Eddy taught we should approach the divine Mind as "Mother God"
3. 19th century a movement emerged called "New Thought" championed the notion of transitioning to a maternal deity.
4. 20th century Protestant churches and seminaries started accepting the New Age movement.
5. Many religions today now favor a feminine deity over a stern, authoritative lawgiver.

B) Seeing the Bible as sexist

1. Viewing women as lesser human beings. As women were treated as property, not given equal treatment, etc.

Genesis 19:8 "See now, I have two daughters who have not known a man; please, let me bring them out to you, and you may do to them as you wish; only do nothing to these men, since this is the reason they have come under the shadow of my roof."

2. Therefore, some have sought to translated God as being female.
3. Bible verses which celebrate women?
 - a. ***Galatians 3.28*** *There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.*
 - b. ***Hosea 4:14 {ESV}*** *I will not punish your daughters when they play the whore, nor your brides when they commit adultery; for the men themselves go aside with prostitutes and sacrifice with cult prostitutes, and*

a people without understanding shall come to ruin.

- c. **1 Corinthians 11:12 {ESV}** *For as woman was made from man, so man is now born of woman. And all things are from God.*
- d. **Psalms 68:11 {ESV}** *The Lord gives the word; the women who announce the news are a great host:*
- e. **Psalms 68:11** *The Lord gave the word; Great was the company of those who proclaimed it:*

C) Humanizing God

- 1. Making God in man's image.
- 2. Most congregations today now favor a feminine deity over a stern, authoritative lawgiver.
 - a. The humanizing of God – he/she is one of us.
 - b. Deification of man- self worship
 - c. Minimizing of sin- I am Ok, you're OK.
 - d. Distorting man's concept of "grace" since it is unmerited we can do whatever we want.

Titus 2:11 *For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, **12** teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age,*

II) Defining and Understanding the Words

A) God is not a man.

Numbers 23:19 *"God is not a man, that He should lie, Nor a son of man, that He should repent. Has He said, and will He not do? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?"*

- 1. God is a Spiritual being, **John 4.24**.
- 2. God is our Creator.

Genesis 1:26 Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." **27** So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

B) Defining Biblical Words

1. Amen – does not refer to sex, i.e. “men” but means “so be it.”
{ISBE}
 - a. "Amen" is generally used as an adverb of assent or confirmation--fiat, "so let it be".
 - b. Amen is employed when an individual or the whole nation confirms a covenant or oath recited in their presence.
 - c. It also occurs at the close of a psalm or book of psalms, or of a prayer.

Psalms 89:52 *Blessed be the LORD forevermore! Amen and Amen.*

2. Man –
 - a. 'Adham: 'adham, either as the name of the first man
Genesis 2:7 *And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.*
Genesis 2:19 *Out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to Adam to see what he would call them. And whatever Adam called each living creature, that was its name.*
 - b. generic name of the human race

Matthew 4:4 *But He answered and said, "It is written,*

'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'

3. Son (sons)
 - a. (1) In Biblical language the word "son" is used first of all in its strictly literal sense of male issue or offspring of a man or woman. In a few cases in the Old Testament, as in **Ge 3:16; Jos 17:2; Jer 20:15**, the Hebrew word ben, is translated correctly in the English by the word "child" or "children" as it includes both sexes, as in **Ge 3:16**, or is limited to males by the use of the modifying term "male."
 - b. " Closely connected with this meaning of direct male issue or of children is its use to denote descendants, posterity in the more general sense. as in the case of the sons (children) of Israel, may be regarded perhaps as originating in the conception of direct descent from the common ancestor Israel.
 - c. BAR -- More characteristic of Biblical usage is the employment of the word "son" to indicate membership in a class or guild, as in the common phrase "sons of the prophets," which implies nothing whatever as to the ancestry, but states that the individuals concerned are members of the prophetic guilds or schools
 - d. The word "son" is used with a following genitive of quality to indicate some characteristic of the person or persons described.

C) Yahweh translated as Jehovah

1. Adoni – translated as “Lord” which meant “The Name”
2. “He is”
3. The idea is one of Reverence toward God.

Exodus 20:7 "You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who

takes His name in vain.

Leviticus 24:16 *'And whoever blasphemes the name of the LORD shall surely be put to death. All the congregation shall certainly stone him, the stranger as well as him who is born in the land. When he blasphemes the name of the LORD, he shall be put to death.'*

4. Expressed by Jesus in the model prayer.

Matthew 6:9 *"In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name.*

5. General trend has been to lower God to our level. By using phrases such as “dad” or “daddy”

III) Distinguishing Usages in the Bible

A) Man/Son used generically v, gender .

1. Some modern translators have changed terms from “son” or “man” because our usage of the word has changed.
 - a. Holy Ghost to Holy Spirit.
 - b. **Mark 1:17** *Then Jesus said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men." {NIV} I will send you out to fish for people."*
2. There are times the words “son” or “man” is used referring to a specific gender just as woman, daughter.

Matthew 19:4 *And He answered and said to them, "Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning 'made them male and female,' 5 "and said, 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'?"*

B) God is not a man but our “Heavenly Father”

1. Passages which attributes “motherly qualities” to God.

Hosea 11:3-*"I taught Ephraim to walk, Taking them by their*

arms; But they did not know that I healed them. 4 I drew them with gentle cords, With bands of love, And I was to them as those who take the yoke from their neck. I stooped and fed them.

Jeremiah 31:32 *"not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, though I was a husband to them, says the LORD.*

Conclusion:

Instead of trying to change God into our image we must conform to the image of God. His qualities, His love, His righteousness. **Romans 12:1** *I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.*