

The Fatherhood of God

I believe we are literally children of God, made from Christ's spiritual DNA. Jesus was "begotten" (ie. birthed) by the Father. By extension, we are all literally offspring of God the Father through Christ. If Christ created us, and Christ is God, then God created us. God has both paternal and maternal aspects to His character. If we were to take literally the fatherhood of God, without reference to His motherhood, how could God literally be our father? It is the mother, not the father, who actually gives birth. The mother is impregnated with the Father's seed, and that seed joins with the mother's to form a complete being.

So I believe that, in a sense, the term "our Father" is to some degree metaphorical and anthropomorphic. God does not have male body parts, or a long white beard, or arms, legs and feet. God is not a physical being. He is spirit. If you want to be more accurate, you might want to refer to God as both our mother and father. God is not limited to the physical male gender. In saying that, I don't mean to minimize the "personhood" of God. On the contrary, God is more than a person. He is the sum of all the persons in the universe that He created, AND MORE.

Jesus lived in a highly patriarchal society. Referring to God as father/mother or just mother, would not have adequately described God's authority and sovereignty. Perhaps the ancient Hebrews had it right when they originally assigned to God an unpronounceable name. There are no words to describe what or who God is. He just is. All descriptions are imperfect. They can only describe some of God's attributes in human, anthropomorphic terms.

So, what did Jesus mean when He called God Father? I don't believe He was intending to limit His description to gender. He was referring mainly to the aspects of fatherhood which transcend the physical. We are literally God's offspring, emanating from God's own being. Jesus was also picturing, in human terms, the unconditional love that a Father has for His child, the kind of love that a human father cannot have for someone else's child.