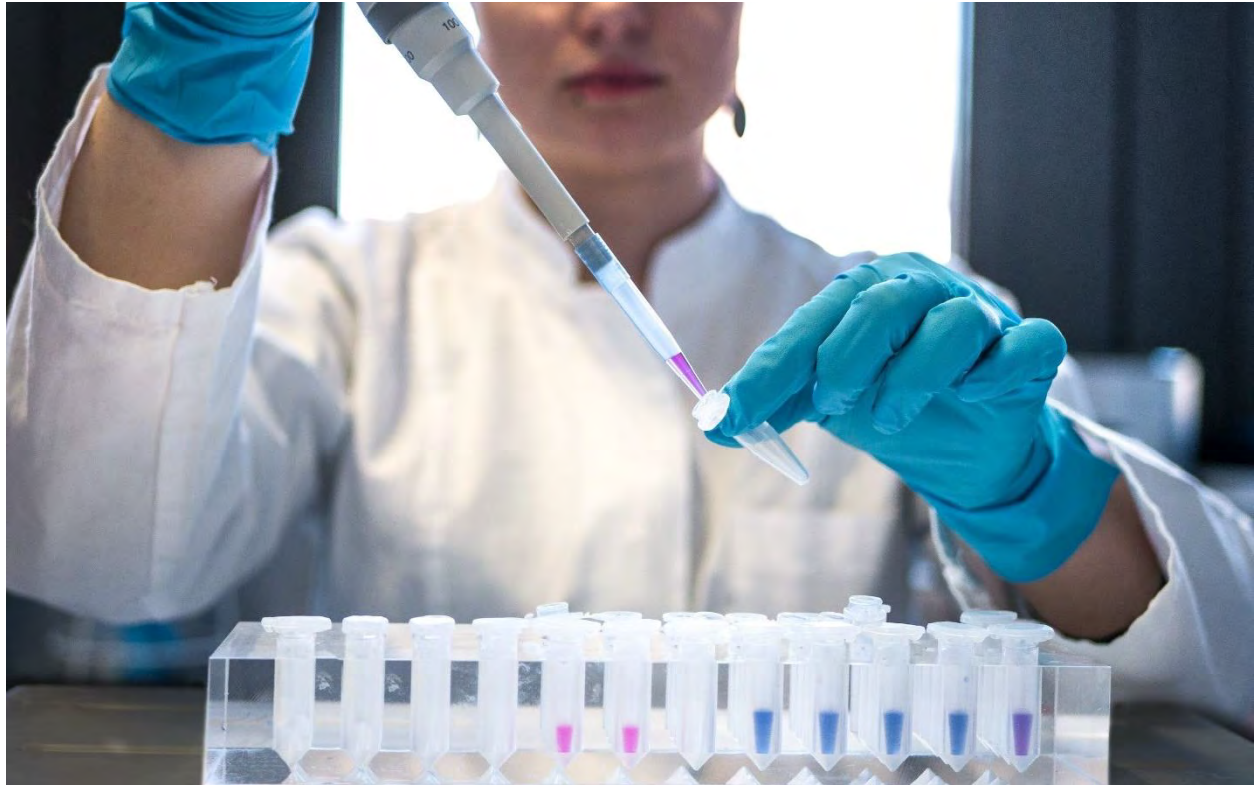


## FFWPU USA: Why God Is The Ultimate Scientist

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Although we are not actually suggesting that God is an old white man with a long white beard, we do recognize God as the origin of everything good, including science. Science has made a steady comeback in the past decade, spearheaded by Neil Degrasse Tyson back in 2014 with the miniseries *Cosmos: A Spacetime Odyssey*, a sequel to the original by Carl Sagan that aired in 1980.

The history of science and religion has been a rocky one at best. Early scientists were persecuted and even imprisoned for trying to spread their findings. Many scientists, in turn, denied the existence of a supreme being or creator. Even today, a [science versus religion](#) debate never seems to be going anywhere. It's easy to look at the two sides and think it impossible to reconcile, but integration of faith and fact is exactly what Father Moon, founder of the Unification faith, envisioned. He himself was a person who valued science, and was interested in the world and how it worked. In the [Introduction to the Divine Principle](#), our core teachings, he explains:

"Humanity, through religion, has followed the path of searching for internal truth, and through science, has followed the path of seeking external truth. Religion and science, each in their own spheres, have been the methods of searching for truth in order to conquer ignorance and attain knowledge."

### Two Sides of the Same Coin

According to Divine Principle, the divide that exists in society today is not nearly as wide as it seems, and while the two have gone on separate paths, they actually seek to accomplish the same thing. Science deals with the external world of phenomena, and religion deals with the internal world of cause. In other words, science asks, "How?" or "What?" and religion asks, "Why?" We need both the external and the internal, and we need to have them work in harmony in order to get anywhere.

"Eventually, the way of religion and the way of science should be integrated and their problems resolved in one united undertaking," says Father Moon. "The two aspects of truth, internal and external, should develop in full consonance. Only then, completely liberated from ignorance, will we enjoy eternal happiness."

Imagine a world where people of faith and conscience use the tools of science to solve the world's problems and to create peace. What if, instead of focusing on differences, we looked at what would be possible if we were able to work together?

Let us put aside the old dispute, which is often driven by egotism and personal opinion, and no longer be affected by the conflicting elements but rather focus on the bigger picture of one combined understanding. Let us put aside personal stances and instead practice objectivity, looking at every matter plainly and humbly, as any good scientist would do.

## God is a Scientist

Unificationists believe the Bible is full of symbolism and metaphor. Scientific and evolutionary evidence does not conflict with a belief in a Heavenly Parent.

Through science, humanity has discovered the great laws of the universe, but why do these laws exist in the first place? Our Heavenly Parent is the ultimate scientist, crafting all of the laws of nature. In fact, the more Father Moon learned about nature and science, the deeper his understanding of God grew. In examining the creation, Father Moon describes atoms with positive and negative charges as a reflection of a God with a dual nature, [masculine and feminine](#).

In the very first episode of Cosmos, Tyson relates the story of [Giordano Bruno](#), a monk who tried to proclaim that the universe was limitless. His vision was met with scorn by his peers. Yet even after being imprisoned and branded a heretic, he continued to preach, and was famously quoted as saying, "Your God is too small!"

Yes, God is limitless, so why not the universe? If the universe is infinite, yet guided by a set of principles, then why not God? What if, the more we learn about our universe, the bigger, the grander our God becomes? The relationship between science and religion is something our world wants to reconcile. If these two most influential avenues of thought could unite, we could solve the problems of the world both internal and external, and strive together towards a world of peace.

When we realize that science and religion are both tools that can be used to better ourselves, humanity, and the universe, we can understand that the divide between the two is merely a matter of perception. God is love, but he is also logic and reason. Our Heavenly Parent is limitless and grand, but also personal and intimate.

## Is God a woman?



As a Unificationist woman, I often think about what that means.

Since 2012, the global Unificationist movement has been led by a woman, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, also known as Mother Moon. In the Unificationist community, this has been a huge change from her husband's leadership. She applies a more feminine touch to our larger movement.

### Heavenly Parent

Most notably, Mother Moon has shifted our language on God from "Heavenly Father" to "Heavenly Parent."

"We must change the names we use. When we pray to God, from now on, please change what you say to 'Heavenly Parent'...The first words you say when you pray should be 'Heavenly Parent.'"

— Mother Moon, 2013

By naming God as Heavenly Parent, it includes both feminine and masculine aspects of God. To Unificationists, Heavenly Parent is the encapsulation of fatherly and motherly affection, because it is from God that all people, both man and woman, were created. [We're not the only religious group wondering the same thing.](#)

**This inclusion is shifting our entire understanding of God and of women.**

Not to break any new ground here, but being a woman is hard. I feel like there's so much we come up against as women. There are unnecessary challenges to our identity. Things like menstruation are taboo even though it happens to half



of the world's population. As most of history and society were shaped by men, it feels like we're still struggling to find a place to fit in.

Growing up, I rejected traditionally feminine things because I felt like they took away from who I was and made me less than. But there is something divine in being a woman regardless of how feminine you are, and Heavenly Parent was my ticket to understanding that.

I embrace a lot more of the feminine things about myself now because it's more real and fun. Because I have realized that being feminine isn't /ess – it's just different.

### **God is the Sum Total**

I think that's the value of having God be both masculine and feminine. It's not like I, as a woman, don't have masculine traits. And men aren't shut out from being feminine. God is the sum total of all traits, and that makes both divine.

I think society as a whole is missing so much by denying women and feminine expressions of life into public spaces and places of influence. To use an insular example, having Mother Moon lead the Unificationist movement has highlighted these differences and what, I felt, was missing from our movement.

"It's not a men vs. women problem. It's a men and women problem. "

### **We Need Women's Leadership**

In her Forbes article, "[Why the World Needs More Women in Leadership](#)," Raisa Ghazi, Award-Winning Global Public Speaker on Women's Leadership & Inclusive Leadership and SER TopWoman & Columnist, says women tend to be risk-averse, community-driven, and are more likely to make ethical decisions in leadership.

Ghazi states, "But we also need more women because they account for half of the world's population... In the end, women's leadership is not just about anticipating trends... It's about leaving untapped potential behind simply because we used to believe women were incapable of making sound decisions."

### **It's a Men and Women Problem**

Where should we go from here? I think we've made a lot of strides, but I think there is more to do to give women the platform to express themselves and

share what they have to offer. It's not a men vs. women problem. It's a men *and* women problem.


In Unificationist teaching, the feminine and masculine aspects of God are inseparable and unable to be removed from Heavenly Parent's heart. I think we, as a society, would do better if we followed that example.



by Jennifer Pierce

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