

mother as "woman," yet twice in this very same verse she is called his mother.

To us it seems rather curt and brusque to address someone as "woman." My guess is that in the Old English the word woman had an entirely different sense, as it certainly does in the Greek. I am sure that Jesus never addressed His mother in any but respectful terms.

It is quite false to say that the virgin Mary merely brought forth the earthly body of our wonderful Saviour Jesus Christ. She was indeed the mother of the Lord Jesus Christ.

I am glad that you have brought this error to my attention. If it were carried through logically it would destroy our whole basis of our salvation. We are saved through Jesus Christ, because He as God could make an infinite sacrifice, but also because He as man could truly represent us on the cross. If He were not a real man, but only had a human body, His crucifixion would be of little avail as far as our salvation is concerned.

LETTER 52
1953

WINE IN THE BIBLE

Some of the members of our faculty made a study of the use of wine in the Bible when the Seminary was started sixteen years ago. We came very strongly to the conclusion that the Bible never represents Jesus Christ as having turned water into fermented wine, or as having partaken of intoxicating liquor. The word "wine" in the New Testament corresponds in quotations from the Old Testament to two distinct Hebrew words. One of these means "fermented wine", while the other simply means "grape juice".