

Study Questions #2

Non-Traditional Western Theisms

Feminism and Traditional Western Theism

*Questions are based on Rosemary Radford Ruether, "The Female Nature of God: A Problem in Contemporary Religious Life."

1. According to Rosemary Radford Ruether, what is an important problem facing traditional western theism?
2. What are some illustrations of the "suppressed feminine" in patriarchal theology?
3. According to Ruether, what aspects of Christianity in particular have contributed to the elimination of the feminine side of God?
4. What are the essential features of "Pagan Feminism"?
5. According to Ruether, why is "Pagan Feminism" not an adequate solution to the expulsion of the divine feminine in patriarchal theology?
6. What approach to the interface between God and gender does Ruether favor?

Process Theology and Traditional Western Theism

*Questions are based on John B. Cobb, Jr. and David Ray Griffin, "God as Creative-Responsive Love."

7. How does process theology differ from traditional western theism in its view of divine love? Provide a clear contrast between responsive and exclusively creative love, especially with reference to the contrasting divine attributes of "impassibility" and "passibility."
8. According to process theology, on what "value judgment" is the idea of divine love as exclusively creative based? What are some of the philosophical problems with this conception of divine love, according to process theology?
9. Explain how process theology understands the nature of God's creative love, especially with reference to persuasion (in contrast to control) and as aimed at promoting "enjoyment."
10. How does the doctrine of God in process theology provide a *prima facie* resolution to the traditional problem of evil?
11. Understand the definition of each of the following divine attributes, and state which are attributes of God according to process theology and which are attributes of God according to traditional western theism: immutability, mutability, impassibility, passibility, dependency, independency, omnipotence, almighty.
12. What is dipolar theism?
13. How does the process view share the concerns expressed by Ruether in her article about the female nature of God?