

Is Mary the mother of God? Is Mary the God-Bearer?

One of the titles or doctrines of the Roman Catholic Church regarding Mary is that she is the “Mother of God” and is the “God-Bearer”. The implications of this doctrine is helpful in understanding who Mary was.

1. What does it mean to be a mother of someone?

Genesis **3:20**; 17:15-17 cmp Genesis **30:1-2** 1 Samuel **1:20-22** cmp Psalm **50:9-13**
1 Kings **3:23-27** cmp **Isaiah 31:5**

The first characteristic of a mother is one who brings into life another person and by extension the offspring of her children. A mother nurtures, cares for, trains, and protects her child. Is it reasonable to understand that Mary brought life to God or nurtured God or trained God or protected God?

2. What does it mean to bear someone?

Genesis **4:1-2** Matthew **1:23**
Isaiah **46:1-7** Psalm **100:3**

There are two meanings behind the word “bear”. It can mean to bring forth or to bring into being. No man has ever brought God into being, He has always been and it is God who has brought us (and Mary) into being, not the other way around. The second meaning behind the word “bear” is to carry. No man has seen God, let alone carried Him. It is God who carries us (and Mary) and not the other way around.

3. What is the true relationship between Mary and God?

Luke **1:31-38, 45-49**

Mary simply humbled herself before God and received His gift of a child. She recognized her need for a savior and was in awe of God who recognized and acknowledged her.

4. Who would Mary be identified as being the mother of?

Luke **2:39-43** John **2:1-3**
John **6:39-42** Matthew **13:54-57**

She did not bear God but she did bear Jesus Christ the Son of God. While she did have other children (James, Joseph, Simon, and Judas and some sisters) she is primarily recognized today as the mother of Jesus, the Christ, the Son of God.

5. If Mary is the mother of Jesus and Jesus is God, doesn't that mean that she is the mother of God?

Romans **1:1-4** Romans **8:3**
Hebrews **2:14-18**

Mary is the mother of Jesus who is God in flesh. He is God in that the fullness of the spirit of God dwells in Him. Jesus came in the likeness of human flesh but that is not all that He is. She is the mother of Jesus but not the mother of God for God brought her forth.