

God Created Sex, Sure, But ...

In The Time of Man's Innocency

How many times have you heard church leaders and theologians say that 'God is the ultimate source and creator of human pleasure – after all, God created sex'? However, *The Book of Common Prayer* reminds us that God instituted marriage (one man plus one woman, of course) and procreation "in the time of man's innocency".

Sex came *before* the fall, it was prelapsarian. Then, humans just did it to continue the species (which, clearly, God *did* want). Yes, humans behaved much as the animals that materialists insist they essentially are – but not *just* animals, even then, as they had something called *choice*, and thus reason).

The idea of sex as a source of pleasure came later, and hence, now, when anything none-purely-this-worldly is increasingly being marginalised and is fading, sex as indulgence in personal pleasure looms ever larger, indeed, in our society, is becoming sovereign. Thus we might be forgiven for thinking that today's same-sex 'marriage' (instituted, in Britain, by PM David Cameron, in the time of ... er ... man's depravity) has much to do with personal pleasure, and nothing to do with perpetuating the species.

Love? Lifetime, faithful relationships? Companionship? I *suspect* (reading about same-sex cohabittees in the past) that that could be had without physical doings. Take the "Ladies of Llangollen" (later-18<sup>th</sup> century/early 19<sup>th</sup> century); from information and speculation given in Elizabeth Mavor's 1971 book (with this title), I don't think they did much rimming.

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