



April 8, 2026

MESSENGER

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GOD LOVES SEX

“*Pru U’rvu*” is the first command in the Hebrew Bible: “Be fruitful and multiply!” *Pru U’rvu* is also the number one primary *mitzvah* (Divine Duty) of a newly married Jewish couple.¹ God wanted to make sure procreation would happen; that’s why he made sex so attractive.

However, it didn’t start with Adam and Eve. The first humans were told to “Be fruitful and multiply!” on the Sixth Day of Creation (Genesis 1:28). But earlier, on the Fifth Day, he had already given the word “Be fruitful and multiply!” to “the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm and every winged bird of every kind” (Genesis 1:22). He gave these animal critters, from beetles and worms to elephants and dinosaurs, all sorts of sexual fringe-benefits to make it happen.

But the sex thing started even earlier. It was on the Third Day that he created a world full of “vegetation, plants yielding seed of every kind and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it” (Genesis 1:12). The emphasis on seeds and fruit-bearing is a clear reflection of the fact that sexual attraction and interaction permeated the plant world even earlier than it did the animal world. Research tells us that about 92% of plant species and 99.9% of animal species that have ever existed have reproduced sexually.² Plant sexuality has made flowers so attractive that they are even used by male humans to get the attention of female humans. It works!

Scientists have demonstrated that sexual reproduction among living things has proven to be a successful strategy for identifying and maintaining distinctions between species, while at the same time valuing and incorporating improvements over generations. From God’s point of view, sexual reproduction seems to be his way of keeping his creativity going through the ages since he started it all. It’s interesting that each Day of Creation ends with the conclusion: “And God saw that it was good.”³

(Continued next page)

April 8, 2026

(Continued from other side)

So, why all the sin-talk around sex? If God likes it so much, why are we supposed to avoid even thinking about it? It all started with a tree and an apple. You know the story: the Serpent tempted Eve, then Eve tempted Adam, then Adam suffered a hormone attack and passed it on to the rest of us. That's why we have rape and sexual abuse and seduction and divorce and gender confusion; and, oh, by the way, greed and jealousy and poverty and fraud and hatred and murder and war. To try to control all this, we need monks and nuns and laws and police and guns and prisons and armies and bombs. *It all began with sex!*

Look, sex first shows up in Genesis Chapter 1. Then human sex becomes the specific in Genesis Chapter 2, where the final words are: *"The man and his wife became one flesh; they were both naked and were not ashamed"* (Genesis 2:24-25). *That's sex, but not sin. It's not until Genesis Chapter 3 that sin breaks into God's Creation, and it doesn't come through sex. It comes through lust for a certain kind of forbidden knowledge (Genesis 3:5). True, part of the curse that came from sinning was a distorted twisting in human relationships, which messed sex up quite a bit (Genesis 3:15-17). But what's the first recorded act of Adam and Eve after the fall? They had sexual intercourse again ("Adam knew his wife").⁴ This seems to have been a positive experience, rather than sinful, because afterwards he blessed her with the love-name "The Mother of All Living" (Genesis 3:20).*

Generations of Jewish and Christian teachers (almost exclusively men) have blurred the Genesis Creation account into a tale of the power of sex to corrupt humanity. They've managed to persuade us that sex is a negative force that has to be repressed in order to overcome evil and grow spiritually. They have developed patriarchal structures in the name of religion, because it's clear to them that women are the problem and must be

subjected, veiled, silenced, immobilized. And yet, they are dependent on women for their very existence (as well as their daily sustenance, usually). Wrong target, guys.

Every flower has female and male parts that are mutually attractive, not to other plants, but to some birds or bugs that are able pass their sexuality on to other flowers, as the hummingbird and the monarch butterfly are doing in the photo above. The butterfly is dressed in its courting outfit, after spending months as a pudgy caterpillar or a corpse-like pupa. The hummingbird wears his yellow-and-green iridescent party outfit in order to be conspicuous; he's hoping to be noticed by some available young female of his species. Once you allow yourself to look for it, you'll see that nature oozes with sexuality. Praise the Lord!

Pastor George Van Alstine

¹ *Mitzvot (plural of Mitzvah) are very important in Jewish daily religious practices. Rabbis have listed 613 specific commands in the Torah (first five Old Testament books). This is the earliest appearing of those 613.*

² Each flower has male (stamen) and female (pistil) parts surrounded by attractive (sexy?) petals. This is an area of study where Science and Religion can hold hands and learn from one another. If you'd like to be part of a continuing discussion group focusing on the interface between these two ways of looking at things, let me know.

³ Except, for some unknown reason, the Second Day. The climax statement on the Sixth Day is amplified to: *God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was **very good***" (Genesis 1:31).

⁴ Early Christian teachers settled on the idea that the Fall into sin involved sex, and that implied that Adam and Eve didn't have sexual relations in the Paradise Garden. However, as I've shown above, both Genesis 1 and Genesis 2 imply sexuality as part of the human experience from the very beginning, and this has been the consistent teaching of Jewish Rabbis.