



Excerpted from:  
***The Passion Principles***  
***Celebrating Sexual Freedom in Marriage***  
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**Option 1 –**

**Will There Be Sex in Heaven?**

If we're honest, most Christians must admit to pondering this thought-provoking question at least a time or two (or two-hundred)!

Before I offer my personal opinion on the matter based on the research I've done, I'd like to tell you about a radio interview I did several years ago that, in all honesty, ticked me off royally. I'm not sure if the pastor who was interviewing me was simply playing "devil's advocate" (if so, he wasn't a very good actor), or if he really had this mentality, but he posed an infuriating question. He challenged, "By telling married couples to engage freely in sex, aren't you encouraging them to operate out of their 'sinful, animal' nature?"

*Hello?! I thought. Are you serious? How could someone with theological training draw such an off-base conclusion?*

I reminded him of the order of events in Genesis, and how God created sex within marriage *before* the fall of man ever occurred. So how in the world can it be sinful? It's only sinful in our minds because we've let Satan steal the notion of sexuality being a huge part of God's perfect creation. And because it *is* a part of God's perfect creation, why in the world would we assume that there *won't* be sex in heaven? It's as if we assume that God is going to somehow wake up and realize, "Oh, I shouldn't have told them to do all that nasty stuff back in the Garden of Eden, so we won't be allowing that in heaven!"

Sorry, but I can't buy that.

Matthew 22:30 is probably another reason why we assume there won't be sex in Heaven. It reads, "When people rise from the dead, they will not marry, nor will they be given to someone to marry. They will be like the angels in heaven" (NCV). In other words, there won't be any reason for marriage in Heaven. Why? Because earthly marriage is intended to be a reflection of God's commitment to His bride, the Church. Once we are in heaven, there's no need for a mere reflection. We'll have the Real Thing. We'll all be in the presence of our Heavenly Bridegroom, so our attentions and affections will no longer have to be directed toward an earthly surrogate.

But will there be sex in heaven? I believe the answer is both yes and no.

Let's press the pause button and consider the question, "What *is* sex?" It's not just intercourse—it's also gender. When you complete a job application and the form asks you to indicate your "sex," how do you respond? By indicating "male" or "female,"

of course. Will we be male and female in heaven? Why wouldn't we be? We will not be neutered at heaven's gates. Matthew 22:30 tells us that we will be as "angels," not as "geldings" or "eunuchs." God's purpose in delivering us from a fallen world into a perfect world is to unmake the messes that *we* have made, and that Satan has made, not to unmake the perfection that *He* has made.

In addition to our sexuality remaining intact in heaven, there's God's sexuality to consider as well. Yes, God is a sexual being, *the most sexual of all beings*, which I know sounds shocking to those of us who see sexuality as being strictly physical, but it's not. It's both physical and spiritual. Although we've historically considered God a "male" being, God actually transcends gender. He made both male *and* female "in his own image" (Genesis 1:27), therefore God is *both* masculine *and* feminine in nature (a concept I explore more fully in my book *The Fantasy Fallacy: Exposing the Deeper Meaning Behind Sexual Thoughts* in a section called "Behind the Curtain: Searching for the Softer Side of God"<sup>1</sup>). And I believe wholeheartedly that both God's "sexual" nature as well as our own sexual nature will be fully present, fully understood, and fully celebrated in heaven. It will be unadulterated, untainted, uninhibited, and we'll enjoy the holiness, the purity, the perfection of all that God intended when He created us both "in His image" and "sexual" at the same time.

With that being established, let me provide a more direct answer by clarifying the question. What we really want to know is, "Will there be *physical intercourse* in heaven?" Since there will be no marriage, and no further need for procreation, it's doubtful. But this shouldn't be bubble-bursting news, because there's so much more to the story. In the words of Dr. Peter Kreeft,

I think there will probably be millions of more adequate ways to express love than the clumsy ecstasy of fitting two bodies together like pieces of a jigsaw puzzle. Even the most satisfying earthly intercourse between spouses cannot perfectly express *all* their love. If the possibility of intercourse in Heaven is not actualized, it is only for the same reason earthly lovers do not eat candy during intercourse: there is something much better to do.<sup>2</sup>

In other words, the pleasure we experience through our God-given sexuality will perhaps be different in Heaven, but will most certainly be magnified exponentially. However, God will not *remove* our sexual nature. He will *redeem* it.

...So rather than mourn the absence of physical sex in Heaven, let us greatly anticipate the bigger sexual picture . . .

Sex on earth is like a lovely view from a cottage window. Sex in heaven will be the breathtaking view from Mount Kilimanjaro.

Sex on earth? A \$2 box of Queen Ann chocolate-covered cherries. Sex in heaven? A bar of Amedei Porcelana (Italian chocolate, \$90 per pound).

Sex on earth? A stick-figure drawing on a refrigerator door. Sex in heaven? Michelangelo's panoramas adorning the Sistine chapel.

Sex on earth? An afternoon at the local playground. Sex in heaven? Owning Disney World.

Think of the greatest sexual pleasures imaginable—on steroids, factored exponentially to mind-boggling mathematical degrees—and we *still* are grasping at straws in comparison to the profound pleasures that await us in our Heavenly home.

*Dearest Heavenly Father,*

*In response to the pleasures that you've created for us to fully enjoy this side of heaven, and for all of those pleasures that you have awaiting us on the other side, we simply say . . . WOW!*

Notes:

1. Shannon Ethridge, *The Fantasy Fallacy: Exposing the Deeper Meaning Behind Sexual Thoughts* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2012), 100.
2. Peter Kreeft, *Everything You Ever Wanted to Know about Heaven—But Never Dreamed of Asking* (San Francisco: Ignatius Press, 1990). See [www.peterkreeft.com/topics/sex-in-heaven.htm](http://www.peterkreeft.com/topics/sex-in-heaven.htm) for an excerpt, “Is There Sex in Heaven?”

## **Option 2 -**

### **What If I Find It Difficult To Trust My Spouse?**

I'll never forget the sound of Tonya sobbing uncontrollably over the telephone as we talked about the many ways she was driving her husband (and herself!) nuts. She would intercept every magazine that came in the mail and cut out every picture of any woman whom she perceived as even possibly “prettier” than her. When I asked her why she felt that need, at first her reply was, “Isn't it my responsibility to keep my

husband from lusting after other women?”

“No, Tonya, it’s not *your* responsibility. You can’t control anyone but yourself, and your husband can’t be controlled by anyone other than himself. You realize that, right?” I inquired.

“I guess, but I still feel as if I have to control his environment. When we’re at dinner parties, if he leaves the table to go to the bathroom, I go to the bathroom too, just in case there’s some other woman along the way that wants to try to talk to him,” she confessed.

“How does your husband feel about you following him to the bathroom?” I asked.

Tonya admitted that it probably drives him crazy, and that the fact she would even feel the need to do such a thing drove her crazy too. We talked quite a while longer about the great lengths she would go to in order to “control his environment.” Basically, this guy didn’t make a move without his wife knowing about it. And both were panicked over what it might mean if any of her suspicions were ever confirmed.

“Have you ever heard of a ‘self-fulfilling prophecy,’ Tonya?” I asked, going on to explain that sometimes we create the very behavior in someone else that we are trying so desperately to control, simply by being so controlling. When someone gets the message loud and clear, “I don’t trust you. I *can’t* trust you!” then guess what? They begin to believe it themselves. They are brainwashed by their own spouse into thinking, “I’m untrustworthy.” So then they simply act in accordance with what they believe about themselves. We can create the very unstable relationship that we fear most—all because of our own insecurities!

Truth be told, I’ve talked with numerous “Tonyas” in my life-coaching practice, as

well as many “Toms” (the male version). Their tactics have included:

- Forcing their spouses to go to counseling in spite of their unwillingness to do so, sometimes to deal with issues that only exist in their own heads.
- Following their cars to see if they go where they said they were going after work.
- Stalking Facebook pages, text messages, e-mails, etc.
- Privately asking their spouses’ coworkers to comment on his/her office behavior.
- Enlisting a friend to “spy” on them at the fitness center, or worse, to even pretend to flirt with them simply to see how they’d respond.

My best advice to anyone who feels compelled to go to such great lengths to “follow up” on a spouse’s faithfulness or “set a trap” to catch him or her in the act—professional help is definitely needed, but *you* may be more in need of it than your spouse! And if you indeed discover that there *is* an issue that warrants your concern, I hope you’ll *both* get counseling rather than just expecting your spouse to deal with his or her issue alone. It takes two to tango in any dysfunctional relationship dance.

Marlene has experienced both extremes – being externally motivated by a controlling husband, and being internally motivated thanks to a trusting husband. She shares these words of warning and encouragement:

“I’ve travelled for business on a regular basis for the last twelve years.

The first five of those years I was in a controlling, manipulative marriage where I was expected to phone at a certain time each day, my suitcase

was scrutinized to see what I was packing and if I had a bathing suit with me. I would do laps in the hotel's pool, but the interpretation was that I was trolling for men. I was grilled on who I met with, whether they were male or female, what I wore . . . you get the idea.

“The behavior certainly didn't motivate me to honor his demands and, in fact, did become a self-fulfilling prophecy, eventually leading me into an extra-marital affair. Don't misunderstand—I'm not saying my husband's actions were responsible for my affair. Clearly that was a choice I made myself, out of low self-esteem and a need to find affirmation. I contrast those first five years with the past two years since I've remarried and I'm so grateful that my new husband gives me the benefit of the doubt. I'm highly motivated to let him know I arrived safely somewhere and to text him throughout the day to let him know how things are going. He trusts me completely and, as a result, I respond in kind and honor his trust. The responses the two different behaviors elicit are night and day. Everyone needs to understand that negative actions result in negative responses.”

Do you have this kind of unwavering trust in your marriage, or might there be some “self-fulfilling prophecies” in the making? If the latter is a truer statement, what do you think your own relational insecurities communicate to your mate—1) I have a high enough self-esteem to expect my spouse to be fully committed to me, or 2) I have such a low self-esteem that I automatically assume that no one would ever be faithful to someone like me? Your answer to that question will most likely reveal a lot more about

yourself than it does about your spouse.

Before you let your own personal insecurities ooze out and ruin the very fibers of your relational rug, consider taking the high road. See if you're able to make the following declarations to your spouse:

- I believe in you 100 percent and I trust you completely.
- Although you're a fallible human being, I know your conscience will be your guide. I trust you have the Holy Spirit guiding you.
- I don't feel the need to go behind your back to check up on you, and that feels really good.
- If I have any concerns about your marital faithfulness, I will ask you with complete confidence that you will be honest with me, regardless of what the answer may be.
- As we continue "putting all of our emotional eggs in each other's baskets" from day to day, I have no doubt that you'll treat my heart as carefully as I will treat yours.

Always remember that a person is innocent until proven guilty, and keep your personal insecurities in check as *your own* issues to deal with, rather than turning the tables and letting them evolve into relational poison. And as you put this kind of stock in your spouse's character and integrity, I believe that it will yield a tremendous amount of compound interest! Your spouse will undoubtedly want to rise to the occasion and prove incredibly worthy of your trust.

*God, please show me how to inspire rather than require  
sexual integrity from my spouse such that I never create a “self-fulfilling prophecy.”  
Help us trust one another completely, or at least trust the Holy Spirit inside one another.  
Help us to be as faithful to each other as You are to us.*