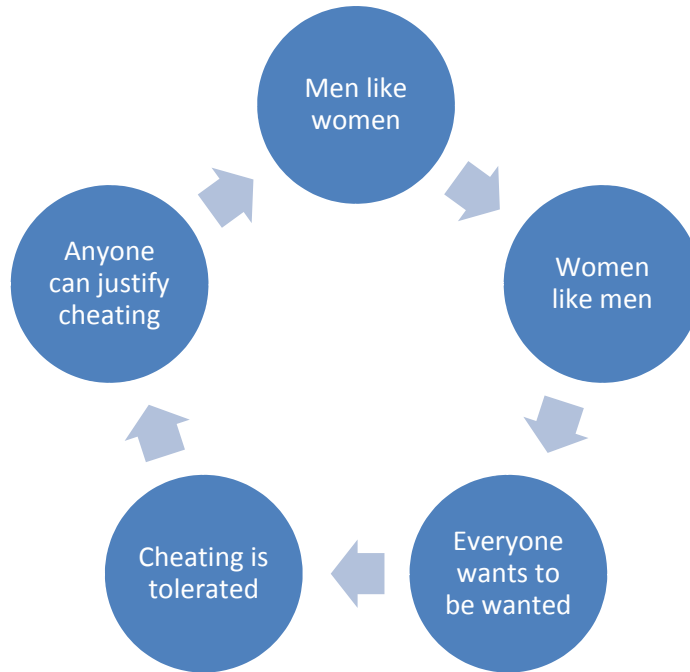


Dear K.P.

Why do men cheat?

Men cheat because women like men and men like women. Men/Women cheat because women/men find ways to justify cheating. Men/Women cheat due to the fact that women/men tolerate this behavior. Finally, men/women cheat because women/men feel the need to be desired. But you know this, so is there an underlining question that you have? Perhaps it is, “Will my man/woman cheat on me,” or “How can I prevent my man/woman from cheating on me”?



Before delving into the psyche of a man/woman who cheats, we truly need to ask ourselves some real heart felt questions such as:

Why am I so concerned about what a man/woman does outside of the relationship?	Why am I letting his/her actions define what I do and how I feel?
Can a man/woman be supportive, love me, and cheat on me?	Why does it hurt so much to be cheated on?

Aware that these questions only raise more questions should lead you to my point: Cheating reinforces doubt! The disbelief, uncertainty, and mistrust we have within ourselves and our partner rears its ugly head when there are questions of fidelity. It supports fear and gives life to a double consciousness many people are trained to manage (inadequately I might add) in regards to being vulnerable or not.

As a point of fact, the primary differences between living in relationships as a cheater and being monogamous is your faith in the partner or the will (courage) to be truthful. You see, men and women

find ways to sleep at night without tossing and turning over what is ailing you, your suspicion and your qualms. Cheaters find ways to cope and I recommend that you do the same. Whether you can mature in this relationship is a self-fulfilling journey that each individual must take. Just do not spend too much time attempting to clarify, justify, or magnify your partner's choice to live in deception. Trust me; I know what it feels like to be deceived. It leaves a nasty taste in your mouth. At times you want to spit it out or spit at someone which leads back to one of the questions I posed before, "Why does it hurt so much (to know that you have been cheated on)?"

Before addressing the later question, let us skip over to forgiving. Forgiveness tends to be the antidote to living with cheating in relationships. However, I contend that it does not have to be achieved in order to be happy in a relationship. Although I believe in the concept of forgiveness, I declare that 99% of people in one will never experience it because the struggles are too complex, fluid, and powerful. People do not willingly want to work as hard as necessary to live lovingly especially when forgiveness is the receipt for cheaters.

Just think about the spectrum of rationalization to forgive, "It's not for the other person, it's for you," "In order to forgive, you must forget" or "Jesus forgave you so you must forgive." With much vigor, I challenge all of these specious notions, but it still will not explain why men cheat, nor can I.

People are complex creatures and issues of infidelity are muddy. Most people do not define boundaries of their relationship and react to information from an emotional perspective. If my wife slept with another man, I would dislocate her cranium because that is outside a boundary, standard, or statement of purpose that we agreed upon. Whether she has or will cheat in our relationship is another matter. But if I live my life in her possibilities of representing me then I would not be living out my destiny. My marriage does not define me nor does any relationship. At best, people are supposed to reinforce who you are and challenge you to do better. So, when you hold onto someone else's aspirations and dreams you are cheating yourself and the relationship. Know that you have much to offer. Live in love and allow for it to relinquish you from what your man/woman does. On the other hand, if you find out that your partner has cheated on you then busts a cap in his/her ass (smile)!