

More on Savage and monogamy

By [Steve Thorngate](#)

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Our August 23 [cover story](#) on monogamy and Dan Savage has gotten a lot of feedback, both positive and negative. Benjamin Dueholm offers a nuanced take on the ways the popular sex columnist is beating pastors at their own game--and the ways Savage's ethical worldview falls short. Some readers seem too stuck on the first point--"the *Christian Century* believes we should be instructed by an advice columnist," [crows](#) Joe Carter at *First Things*--to hear Dueholm out on the second.

In a [post](#) on his personal blog, Dueholm comments on a recent Savage Love column that I'm sure he would have discussed in the *Century* if the column had been published sooner. Savage strongly criticizes a husband who's been evasive about his possible adultery--"not because of the cheating--monogamy isn't important to me--but because of the lying and the bullying." The husband has been crediting Savage for his own progressive views on monogamy.

Dueholm's incisive response builds on his critique of Savage in our pages: while Savage claims to care not about monogamy itself but about respecting agreements you've made with others, his advice often suggests that monogamy maintains some sort of privileged status. "You can't have sacred contracts over trivial things," Dueholm points out. Provided you can handle strong language and frank talk about sex, you really should [read the whole post](#), which Dueholm aptly titles "Monogamy's Ghost."

Meanwhile, *USA Today* reports that monogamy is actually [on the rise](#). Amanda Marcotte [credits](#) sexual liberation--if you're more likely to be satisfied in your marriage, and less likely to feel social stigma toward divorce, you're less likely to cheat. But E.J. Graff [pokes some good-sized holes](#) in this reading.