

**The Missionary Position:
Regulating Sex as a Technique for Conversion
A book project by Julie Ingersoll
Chapter Outline**

The Introduction will lay out the general argument of the book that a conversionist religious tradition must create an experience of wretchedness and even depravity to make clear that the forgiveness offered by the tradition is necessary. It's worth noting that conversions to these traditions often occur in adolescence before most converts even have the chance to exhibit sinfulness that could conceivably warrant eternal damnation. Yet would-be converts must come to see themselves as exactly this sinful, repent of their sin and seek forgiveness to be saved. The tightly regulated sexual norms that promote conversion continue to shape relationships within this subculture throughout the lives of its members and give rise to a version of Christianity in which sin is understood preeminently in terms of the violation of sexual norms and, finally, dictates that a key point of engagement with the larger culture will focus on issues around sexual morality. The secondary scholarly sources for this chapter are already in my possession.

The Joy of Sex: Christian Sex Manuals and Therapy. It surprises some that there has long been a publishing niche for Christian Sex Manuals. This chapter will be a content analysis of a collection of these primary source documents dating back at least until the 1960s as they flourished in response to the sexual revolution, exploring three distinct categories. The first is advice to girls and women, in what is now often called "purity culture." This section will look specifically at how dependency and submission are fostered to protect and promote patriarchy. The second part looks at advice to boys and men and the use of fear to demonstrate the gravity of sin. The third category is the advice given to married couples (or marrying couples) exploring both how the other themes are brought together and thinking through the precise dimensions of sanctioned (and prohibited) sex even within marriage. The primary sources for this chapter are already in my possession.

'Just Say No': Christian Youth, Abstinence and Secondary Virginity. This field based chapter will examine the efforts to inculcate abstinence through programs for school children, retreats, purity balls, festivals, concerts and other events. I have yet to conduct this field research so detailing expected findings is premature.

Sex in the Pulpits: Sermons, and Scandals. The heart of this chapter will be an examination of a sex scandal that brought the demise of one of the most important organizations in the Christian home school and biblical patriarchy movements in 2013 (Vision Forum) and resignation of one of its most important leaders (Doug Phillips). My forthcoming book has chapters on home schooling, biblical patriarchy and Vision Forum but the research for that book predated the scandal. I have written two blog posts at *Huffington Post* that outline how these groups' underlying values about sex and gender helped to create a climate in which this scandal occurred. This chapter will develop those arguments and include extended interviews with the young woman with whom Phillips has admitted to becoming involved. I am in contact with her but have not yet conducted the formal interviews. I will iterate the argument.