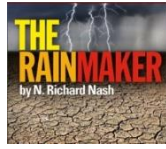


Rainmaker

Fletcher used the example of a character in a play who has sex with a girl to give her hope. He says:



“The Rainmaker’s intention is to restore her sense of womanliness and her hopes for marriage and children.”

Her brother wants to shoot him, but her father grabs the gun, saying “Noah, you’re so full of what’s right you can’t see what’s good”.

Fletcher said:

“We find nothing in the teachings of Jesus about the ethics of sex... Whether any form of sex (hetero, homo, or auto) is good or evil depends on whether love is fully served”.

Charlie Sheen’s ‘goddesses’

In 2011, Charlie Sheen lived with two women at the same time, a pornographic actress and a model, nicknaming them his ‘goddesses’. He described it as a perfect set-up.

The situation quickly broke down, with one woman moving out the following month and the other a few months later.

In 2015, Sheen announced that he was HIV positive.

Some people argue that Sheen was just doing what many men would happily choose to do. The women entered into the relationship freely, and it is up to them how they choose to live.

Others argue that Sheen was acting selfishly and recklessly, in a way that didn’t help him or the women.

Polyamory research

In 2014, Terri Conley (University of Michigan) identified benefits of polyamory. Polyamorous people tend to maintain more friendships as they keep a wider social network. They are also less likely to cut off contact after a break-up.

Conley found that people in a poly relationship were better at communicating, and as a result, jealousy is often less of a problem.

Another study found that openly non-monogamous people practice safer sex than cheating individuals in ‘monogamous’ relationships, and therefore have fewer sexually transmitted diseases.

Types of polyamory

Polyfidelity – multiple relationships, but sexual contact restricted to specific partners.

Open marriage – when a couple are married but can have sex with other people.

Swinging – this is different from polyamory, where people are in several relationships at the same time. Swinging involves a couple in a relationship having casual sex with other people.

Polygamy – when someone is legally married to more than one person at a time. Over 80% of countries across the world allow polygamy, and it is part of several religions, like Islam.

Gender equality

People in ‘poly’ relationships criticise traditional marriage, where a woman has traditionally been seen as ‘property’. There are still forced marriages in some cultures, and laws can allow an in-balance of power. Even in the UK, it only recently became illegal to rape your wife – it had been assumed until then that a man had a right to have sex with his wife.

People in polyamorous relationships agree the rules and boundaries with one another. By their nature, these relationships require communication, co-operation and trust. In particular, they are non-possessive and are encouraged to see their partner’s other significant others in terms of the benefits they bring to their partners, not as threats.

Christianity and Polyamory

Most churches are completely against polyamory, seeing marriage between a man and a woman as a life-time commitment and God’s plan going back to Genesis. However, Fletcher questioned this.

Fletcher said sex was a moral problem because of the “repressive effects of legalism”. He said “People are learning we can have sex without love, and love without sex... If people do not believe it is wrong to have sex relations outside marriage, it isn’t, unless they hurt themselves, their partners or others... All situationists would agree with Mrs. Patrick Campbell’s remark that they can do what they want ‘as long as they don’t do it in the streets and frighten the horses.’”