

Reading Questions for April 28

These questions cover excerpts from an article by Thom Brooks called “The Problem with Polygamy”. The answers do not have to be turned in. You will probably have to read more than once to get the answers.

*Background:*

We are spending the next three class days talking about polygamy (and also, briefly, some other forms of marriage). Today we’ll look at someone arguing against polygamy; on Monday we’ll look at someone arguing in favor of polygamy, and then on Wednesday we’ll look at some other controversial types of marriage.

*Questions:*

1. In section I (pages 109-11), Brooks discusses some arguments regarding polygamy that he thinks are not very good. What are these arguments and what are his criticisms? Do you agree with him?
2. In sections II and III (111-4), Brooks discusses some harms associated with polygamy, then discusses an argument about polygamy being unequal and responses to it made by Cheshire Calhoun and Martha Nussbaum. What are the harms? What is the argument and the responses? What do you think about these and why?
3. In section V (pages 116-8), Brooks argues that polygamy is unequal and that it discriminates against nonheterosexuals. How do these arguments go. Are they convincing? Why?