

Christian Filmmaker Under Fire for Documentary That Calls Out Hook-Up Culture

A recent Netflix documentary is coming under flack by liberal critics for having a hidden agenda. *Liberated: The New Sexual Revolution*, released in 2017 and follows the sexual culture of today by looking at spring break and the consequences of partying behavior during this infamous week off from school. Yet, in contrast to many Netflix options, *Liberated* poses a very telling question about the sexual landscape of our world and the darkness behind it.

Benjamin Nolot, a Christian documentarian, directed *Liberated*. Within the first few minutes of the movie, audiences are confronted with the sad truth of today's oversexualized cultures. Many spring break partiers were interviewed on the beach or on the way to celebrate the week and were asked about their motives for sex, and the answers are usually exactly what you'd expect.

A recent article came out against the documentary, calling Nolot and his team "Christian fundamentalists." The piece blindsided Nolot, and as such, has spurred controversy around his intention for his documentary. For instance, when he and his team took *Liberated* to screenings and universities around the country and abroad, many viewers were unhappy with the portrayal of onscreen events because they showed the emptiness in hook-up culture and one-night-stands. One viewer relayed his distaste, saying *Liberated* painted "casual sex as inherently disempowering."

These liberal critics gathered that Nolot and his *Liberated* team kept their conservative beliefs about sex before marriage quiet in order to "push their agenda." Yet, Nolot never hid

his thoughts on how society has devalued sex. He said, "Sex means something, and if it doesn't, then why is adultery a thing? And if it doesn't, then why is rape a thing? Treating [sex] with the reverence or respect it deserves is a way to move past the rape culture that we are currently living in."

The piece went through Nolot's previous documentary about sex-trafficking along with his connection to religious institutions such as the International House of Prayer in Kansas City and Exodus Cry, an organization that was birthed out of prayer to help end sex slavery. In addition, a tweet from 2013 on Nolot's was unearthed that states Nolot opposes homosexual marriage as it contradicts God's heart for marriage.

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