

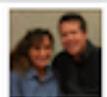
DUGGARS IN TROUBLE

## BACKGROUND

- Josh Duggar admitted to molesting five young girls (four of whom were his sisters and one the family babysitter) while he was still in his teens.
- More than a year passed between the when Josh confessed his crimes to his parents and when his parents reported the crime to a police officer who was a friend. During that time, several more incidents of molestation took place.
- Smiling as they described him as a very "sly" molester, Jill and Jessa literally laughed off the charges against Josh and attacked the media for "exploiting" them as though they were "porn stars."
- Ashley Madison - a website designed to help married people find cheating partners - was hacked, and thousands of its clients were revealed. Josh was found to have two paid accounts with the service.
- Shortly after the Ashley Madison news broke, an adult film actress named Danica Dillon came forward and claimed that Josh paid her thousands of dollars to have sex with him on more than one occasion. She later filed a civil suit for assault, claiming that the sex was so rough that she felt as though she'd been raped.

## BACKGROUND

- Jill and Derick Dillard were accused of lying to fans about moving to Central America to perform missionary work. The couple was eventually forced to refund an undisclosed amount in donations from fans.
- Ben (Jessa's husband) wrote a bizarre, rambling Facebook post in which he outlined the "deadly errors" of Catholicism, and stated that he "in no way supports" the Church's teachings. Needless to say, millions of Catholics were not pleased.



**Duggar Family Official**

May 21, 2015 · 🌐

Please read the following messages:

From Jim Bob and Michelle:

Back 12 years ago our family went through one of the most difficult times of our lives. When Josh was a young teenager, he made some very bad mistakes and we were shocked. We had tried to teach him right from wrong. That dark and difficult time caused us to seek God like never before. Even though we would never choose to go through something so terrible, each one of our family members drew closer to God. We pray that as people watch our lives they see that we are not a perfect family. We have challenges and struggles everyday. It is one of the reasons we treasure our faith so much because God's kindness and goodness and forgiveness are extended to us — even though we are so undeserving. We hope somehow the story of our journey — the good times and the difficult times — cause you to see the kindness of God and learn that He can bring you through anything.

From Josh:

Twelve years ago, as a young teenager I acted inexcusably for which I am extremely sorry and deeply regret. I hurt others, including my family and close friends. I confessed this to my parents who took several steps to help me address the situation. We spoke with the authorities where I confessed my wrongdoing and my parents arranged for me and those affected by my actions to receive counseling. I understood that if I continued down this wrong road that I would end up ruining my life. I sought forgiveness from those I had wronged and asked Christ to forgive me and come into my life. I would do anything to go back to those teen years and take different actions. In my life today, I am so very thankful for God's grace, mercy and redemption.

From Anna:

From Anna:

I can imagine the shock many of you are going through reading this. I remember feeling that same shock. It was not at the point of engagement, or after we were married - it was two years before Josh asked me to marry him. When my family and I first visited the Duggar Home, Josh shared his past teenage mistakes. I was surprised at his openness and humility and at the same time didn't know why he was sharing it. For Josh he wanted not just me but my parents to know who he really was -- even every difficult past mistakes. At that point and over the next two years, Josh shared how the counseling he received changed his life as he continued to do what he was taught. And when you, our sweet fans, first met me when Josh asked me to marry him... I was able to say, "Yes" knowing who Josh really is - someone who had gone down a wrong path and had humbled himself before God and those whom he had offended. Someone who had received the help needed to change the direction of his life and do what is right. I want to say thank you to those who took time over a decade ago to help Josh in a time of crisis. Your investment changed his life from going down the wrong path to doing what is right. If it weren't for your help I would not be here as his wife — celebrating 6 1/2 years of marriage to a man who knows how to be a gentleman and treat a girl right. Thank you to all of you who tirelessly work with children in crisis, you are changing lives and I am forever grateful for all of you.

👍 Like

💬 Comment

➦ Share

## THE INTERVIEW

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xFvz\\_0ECyhU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xFvz_0ECyhU)

"For him it will be a long journey toward wholeness and recovery," the Duggars said in the statement. "We pray that in this he comes to complete repentance and sincere change."

## JOSH CHEATS ON HIS WIFE

- Danica Dillon sat down with ET for her first on-camera interview about the two alleged sexual encounters she had with Josh.
- Dillon alleges that Josh introduced himself as a fan of her adult film work, and claims that he "kept approaching me through the night, saying weird things like, 'Oh you are so beautiful.'"
- Dillon claims that Josh offered her \$1,500 to have sex at the hotel she was staying at in Philadelphia at the end of the night, which she allegedly accepted. She also alleges that their liaison quickly turned aggressive once they returned to her hotel room.
- "I tried to be sexy and seductive," Dillon said. "And then he was like, 'No, let's get straight to the point,' and [we] took our clothes off, took his clothes off, and he was very rough with me."
- "He threw me on the bed and, in all honesty, though it was consensual it more or less felt like I was being raped," Dillon alleges.

## JOSH'S APOLOGY TO WIFE ANNA

- "I have been the biggest hypocrite ever. While espousing faith and family values, I have secretly over the last several years been viewing pornography on the internet and this became a secret addiction and I became unfaithful to my wife," he wrote in a now-edited statement. "I am so ashamed of the double life that I have been living and am grieved for the hurt, pain and disgrace my sin has caused my wife and family, and most of all Jesus and all those who profess faith in Him."
- He concluded with an apology. "I humbly ask for your forgiveness. Please pray for my precious wife Anna and our family during this time."

# Ben's Facebook Post



Ben Seewald

July 18 🌐

I have nothing against individuals who are Catholic. I know a lot of Catholics who are great people. What I DO have a problem with is the teaching that man can merit God's favor through his own works or the works of other fallen men. Ephesians 2:8-9 is very clear "For by grace are you saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast."

I DO have a problem with the teaching that man can come to God through Mary or any other person besides Jesus. John 14:6: "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."

I DO have a problem with the deification of Mary as a sinless being. Mary herself admitted her need for a Savior. (Luke 1:47). If she had no sin, she would need no Savior.

My conscience is captive to the word of God. Where my Catholic friends adhere to God's Word, I adhere. Where they depart from Scripture, I will in no way support, but will call them out because I love them and desire that they be turned from their deadly errors.

## RESULTS

- Josh leaves the home and goes to a Christian based treatment center.
- After Josh returns from treatment center family goes to the police station but nothing is really done about the crimes
- Jill and Jessa interview on the Kelly Files talking about the molestation
- Jim Bob and Michelle interview on the Kelly Files as well
- Duggars post on Facebook
- TLC pulls 19 Kids and Counting from their channel
- The Duggars made their return to television with a limited series called Jill & Jessa: Counting On. Several boycott groups sprang up online in response to TLC's decision to give the controversial family another chance, and hundreds of potential advertisers were convinced to keep their distance.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Do you think that the show being cancelled was appropriate considering what all has happened or would the show still have viewers?
- Given the Duggar's Christian background, did Jim Bob and Michelle Duggar handle the situation appropriately by hiding the fact their son molested five women, four of them being their own daughters?
- After all of this has happened in Josh Duggar's life, do you think his apologies for molesting five women and cheating on his wife was enough?