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Duggars in Trouble

The famous Duggar family is known for their strong Christian faith and big family. The show *19 Kids and Counting* brought the family into the spotlight. It is a given when group of people or individual become famous there will be incidents of controversy that are uncovered. For the Duggars, it has been a series of unfortunate events starting with Jim Bob and Michelle Duggar's son Josh Duggar. In May 2015, the world learned that Josh Duggar admitted to molesting five women in his teens. Four were his sisters and the other one was the family's babysitter (Johnson, 2015). Josh allegedly fondled the women touching their breasts and genitals (Lee, 2015). Josh confessed his crimes to his parents, and many years passed in between the confession to his parents and the confession to the police. In this time span, there were more occasions of sexual crime that kept taking place (Johnson, 2015). Jim Bob, Michelle, Jessa, and Jill made an appearance on *The Kelly File* talking about the day Josh came and admitted to his crimes and how the sisters were so thankful for their parents. Both girls blamed the media for making them relive and go through this traumatic event in their life. In the meantime, Josh stepped down from his job at the Family Research Council, and the family show has been pulled from *TLC*.

Next on the downward spiral for Josh Duggar was the news that he had cheated on his wife with a porn star. The website *Ashley Madison* was hacked exposing many online users who had been paying for sex. There were two trails leading back to Josh for paying for two subscriptions. Josh says, "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. 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. I humbly ask for your forgiveness. Please pray for my precious wife Anna and our family during this time" (Lee, 2015). Danica Dillion, the woman who Josh approached to have sex with sat down for an interview with *ET* and explained that she did give him consent, but the sex was so rough she felt as though she had been raped. This statement is viewed with shock since she films rough sex for a living (Seemayer & Ng, 2015).

Aside from all of the Josh's drama, Jill and Derrick were caught lying about the reason they moved to Central America. The couple said they moved to do mission work. They were forced to give fans who sent their monetary support a refund. Ben Seewald, Jessa's husband, posted on Facebook bashing Catholicism, naming the errors and saying he does not support the teaching of the religion. His posts left many Catholics upset. Finally, the roller coaster of events come to a close for the Duggars when *TLC* decided to give the family show another shot. A series called *Jill and Jessa: Counting On* hit the channel listings, but the turn out and views of watchers did not support the show (Johnson, 2015).

Everything that has happened to the Duggar may not have all been prevented, but the way they handled the media and their choices could have been handled differently. For starters anytime one comes into the spotlight with skeletons in the closet, it is best to address the issues. I am not saying divulge your life story when it is not necessary, but have a strategic plan for if and when the dark secrets are discovered. My second and more opinionated response to Josh Duggar's behavior is that his actions are just inappropriate. He has committed crimes and going away to a treatment facility does not seem like enough justice to me. When some of Josh's family members appeared on *The Kelly File*, I think that could have been a good way to address

the publics, but after watching the interview, I didn't believe what they were claiming. The mother, Michelle, didn't seem very believable about not knowing about Josh's crime. I am not a mother yet, but I know if something like that was taking place in my home, my mama would have a sense about what was going on. Call it mother's intuition. The Duggar family is a big household and with big household comes more chaos and less privacy, so I can't imagine no one having picked up on what was happening to the sister and babysitter. Back to the interview, when Jill and Jessa made their appearance, the girls blamed the media and that is something you never do. Yes, these girls didn't commit the crime, but instead of pointing fingers at the media, they should have taken a different approach in their comments. After all, the media didn't molest them.

I agree with Josh stepping down from his job when the news about his cheating on his wife came out. Also, I agree with him apologizing to everyone and to his wife and family. I think that was the only choice he had and the publics could do with it what they want. Regarding Jill and Derrick being caught in their lie about why they moved to Central America, just don't lie. Lies always come back to the surface, and one always wants to maintain trust with publics. In my opinion Ben, Jessa's husband, should have kept his views about Catholicism to himself if he could not present it in a positive way. Everyone is entitled to his or her own opinion, but how one presents it reflects the type of person. Just show respect for others by being respectful. Lastly, I think that trying to bring the family back to television was a bad call on *TLC* because I don't see the viewers taking well to a new series and that only would hurt *TLC* since the Duggars have already tarnished their reputation. Many things with the Duggar family could have been avoided if they would have put a little more thought into their actions.

References

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