

**Matt Walsh**

August 20 at 12:02pm · Edited ·

[Like Page](#)

I'm not too proud to admit when I was wrong. So, yes, I was wrong about the Duggar situation. If you recall, several months ago it was revealed that Josh Duggar, the oldest son in the "19 Kids and Counting" clan, sexually abused his sisters when he was 13 or 14 years old. This revelation was used by many anti-Christian folks as a way to "prove" that all Christians are hypocrites and the whole "family values" thing is a shame, etc.

I wrote a post in the early days of that story pointing out that the liberal outrage over sexual abuse seems to be rather selective and insincere. I further said that Christian ideals aren't disproved just because one Christian fails to live up to them. And I also said that, by all accounts, Josh has repented and changed his ways, and he should be forgiven.

I stand by the first two parts of my argument, but on the last I was misguided. Reports surfaced yesterday alleging that Josh Duggar paid for and maintained two Ashley Madison accounts over the last two years. Ashley Madison is a dating site for married people seeking affairs. It was hacked this week and the records of 30 million adulterers were released. Josh is one of the 30 million. Just in the last hour or two, Josh admitted publicly to the affairs, so this is no longer "alleged." He went from sexual abuser to serial adulterer. These are facts.

On the profile, Josh specifies that he's looking for "one night stands" and "experimentation" and other things in that vein. It's disgusting. The man has a wife and several kids, and in between trolling for affairs, he was on TV presenting himself as a Christian role model.

So I was wrong about Josh Duggar being a repentant man. Clearly, he isn't. Or at least he wasn't. Maybe now he'll finally begin the process, but it's certainly impossible to believe that someone could be truly sorry for past sexual sin while currently in the process of fishing for affairs and "experimental" one night stands.

He's a traitor to his family. I feel awful for them, and I pray that Josh really does come to Christ. Beyond that, I pray his wife and kids somehow recover from all of the shame Josh has brought upon them. Because, let's be clear, if you sign up for an adultery website and then your information gets hacked and your family ends up embarrassed and devastated -- that is YOUR fault. You are the one who victimized them. The hackers acted illegally, but this all happened because of your choices. Don't want your information stolen from an adultery website? Don't sign up for an adultery website. Pretty simple formula.

I must also admit that the more I think about this, I realized I was too easy on the the Duggar parents as well. Jim Bob and Michelle knew that their oldest son was struggling with severe sexual sin, they knew their daughters had been abused, they knew their family was in the midst of moral and spiritual turmoil, yet they STILL decided to put themselves and their children on TV for ten years.

That's really just not a justifiable decision. Josh Duggar is CLEARLY not equipped to be a world famous face of Christian values, but he was put in that position -- as were all the Duggars -- by the Ma and Pa Duggar. That doesn't excuse what he did, but it does indicate that his parents were supremely reckless and self-serving. I generally am not a fan of parents putting their kids on TV -- especially for years and years of their lives, depriving them of a normal childhood -- but to do it when there's sexual abuse going on inside your home? Inexcusable.

In any case, we learn yet again that, as Chesterton said, the Christian ideal

SPONSORED

[Create Ad](#)**Hand of God**
[amazon.com](#)

There's a thin line between obsession & madness. All episodes stream 9/4 on Amazon Prime.

**Summer Clearance Event.**
[chrysler.com](#)

Enjoy your summer in style with a new Chrysler vehicle. Come in now for a great deal.

[English \(US\)](#) · [Privacy](#) · [Terms](#) · [Cookies](#) ·
[Advertising](#) · [Ad Choices](#) · [More](#)
Facebook © 2015

has never been tried and found wanting, but it has been tried and found difficult. To live up to our faith is difficult. Nobody does it perfectly -- I know I certainly don't -- but when we put ourselves in front of the world as role models, we are called to carry an even heavier burden of responsibility. Even those of us without a worldwide audience still have that burden, and we are still role models in some capacity, but the more people you have looking up to you, the more profound the duty.

I don't blame Josh or his parents for being imperfect. But I do blame them for climbing onto the stage and seizing the limelight when they were clearly so compromised.

The fall of the Duggar family is sad in many ways, and I am still sickened by those who are taking pleasure in it, but this is a tragedy precipitated by conscious decisions. This is sin. This is what sin does. You might think it will bring you pleasure, but in the end it can only destroy.

I guess that's the lesson. If only we didn't have to keep relearning it.

We live in a sick world, everyone. And Christ is the only medicine.

[Like](#)
[Comment](#)
[Share](#)

33,526 people like this.

[Most Relevant](#)

3,803 shares



Write a comment...



Matt Walsh The people accusing me of "condoning" child molestation are being either dishonest or extremely obtuse. I never did anything remotely close to that. In fact, in my original post, which I have admitted has been proven misguided, I call Duggar's actions ... [See More](#)

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · 1,434 · August 20 at 5:27pm · Edited

[View previous replies](#)



Matt Walsh OK guys. I've explained the really obvious nuances of my position in every way I know how. I think we've probably reached the point in this thread where the trolls outnumber the rational adults. That's when I bow out and move on with my life. Have a great night everyone.

[Like](#) · 652 · August 20 at 6:49pm

[View more replies](#)



Matt Walsh Here's the latest: <http://www.theblaze.com/.../josh-duggar-breaks-silence.../>



Josh Duggar Breaks Silence Following Ashley Madison Claims: 'I Have Been the...

THEBLAZE.COM

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · 179 · August 20 at 12:02pm

[99 Replies](#)



Jimmy Nolen Araujo He's a victim of a crime. You are victim blaming.... Don't get me wrong, I'm excited he got busted. You saying, 'don't want to get hacked, don't go on this site....' is exactly like, 'don't want to get raped, don't wear that outfit...'

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · 94 · August 20 at 12:06pm

[View previous replies](#)



Matt Walsh A little different because I don't actually think you have a moral right to privacy as you troll for affairs online. A legal right, yes, but not a moral one. That's why I won't call him a "victim" here. His wife is, his kids are, his sisters are, but not him.

[Like](#) · 1,648 · August 20 at 12:08pm

[View more replies](#)



Alexandra Allensworth If you are putting being a former child abuser even close to the same realm of deviant and harmful behavior as messing around on your wife, it's time to reevaluate your moral compass. Sorry you lost your stage family.

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · 622 · August 20 at 12:37pm



Matt Walsh I absolutely put them in the same realm. That doesn't diminish sexual abuse, it just underscores the severity of adultery.

[Like](#) · 727 · August 20 at 12:45pm

[View more replies](#)



Tonya Scarborough The problem with the Duggars was and is fundamentalism and patriarchy. They are not the true face of Christianity.

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · 392 · August 20 at 12:22pm

[View previous replies](#)



Matt Walsh Well most families in this country reject "patriarchy" and yet adultery, divorce, and abuse are pretty common

[Like](#) · 222 · August 20 at 1:16pm · Edited

[View more replies](#)



Carrie Hardesty Though I agree with you on some points I don't think it's completely fair to blame the parents. What if your daughter turned from all you taught her? You are in the "limelight" in a sense. You write articles about morals and right and wrong. What happens... [See More](#)

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · 402 · August 20 at 12:42pm · Edited



Matt Walsh If my children started to struggle with something this serious, I certainly wouldn't put them on TV. I just can't conceive of a good justification for that. There's a huge difference between a father being in the "limelight" individually, and a father actively putting his kids in that position.

[Like](#) · 750 · August 20 at 12:38pm

[View more replies](#)



Mike Emmons Who was selective about sexual abuse? When did "liberals" applaud or excuse it?

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · 145 · August 20 at 1:46pm



Matt Walsh Well let's start with the serial abuser and accused rapist who occupied the White House for 8 years

[Like](#) · 333 · August 20 at 1:49pm

[View more replies](#)



Sara Rappas You condone child molestation but not adultery???? Sicko

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · 265 · August 20 at 1:56pm



Matt Walsh Where did I condone child molestation? Is that really what you got out of my post? I don't think I'm the one with the sick mind in that case.

[Like](#) · 618 · August 20 at 1:58pm

[View more replies](#)



Samantha J Clifford "Josh Duggar is clearly not equipped to be a world famous face of Christian values..."

No Christian is honestly. Who here hasn't battled sexual sins? I know I have. Satan has a hold of him and I refuse to judge Josh. I hope he has started taking steps to heal his family and repent.



Like · Reply · 421 · August 20 at 12:06pm



Matt Walsh We all have battled sin, but my point is that the responsibility of fame is great, and his parents never gave their kids a choice. They hoisted this responsibility upon them. I generally oppose that sort of thing, but ESPECIALLY when your oldest kid is a sexual abuser

Like · Reply · 440 · August 20 at 12:11pm

[View more replies](#)



Mikell Robinson As repugnant as I find this revelation, and I do, it is his family I hurt and pray for. A wife has been deceived and betrayed. And now most of the world knows. Many are taking great pleasure in the revelation. Worse, to me, is the fact that his small... [See More](#)

Like · Reply · 147 · August 20 at 12:43pm

[9 Replies](#)



Angie Jones Don't worry Matt I felt the same way. The sins of a kid aren't the same as an adult. We all said what he did was wrong and he needed help. We thought he got it. Apparently he chose to not listen to God. Maybe he's a sex addict? Who knows. Only God can help him now.

Like · Reply · 114 · August 20 at 12:13pm

[16 Replies](#)



Monica Murphy I was one that disagreed with your stance when the child sexual abuse came out. Child molesters DO NOT CHANGE. Period. He was a deviant then, he is now and he will always be one.

Like · Reply · 434 · August 20 at 12:04pm

[61 Replies](#)



Erin Brown You weren't wrong to defend him. God will forgive him for his first sin, and his second, and his third. Your sin is no better or worse than Josh Duggar's.

Like · Reply · 47 · August 20 at 12:23pm

[48 Replies](#)



Heather Deleon I disagree with you saying is the parents fault. I think they were truly trying to serve God and spread the Word of God. I don't think they were being selfish. I think Josh Duggar had a lot of repenting to do, if he is going to do it. My heart truly breaks for Anna Duggar. It truly does.

Like · Reply · 39 · August 20 at 12:21pm

[13 Replies](#)



Kari Karlson Birchler Thank you for this post, Matt. As someone who grew up in a very similar vein of Christianity to that which Josh was raised in, I was very frustrated by the adamant Josh Duggar defenders during the previous allegations. Including you. I completely agree... [See More](#)

Like · Reply · 30 · August 20 at 12:26pm

[9 Replies](#)



Cherry Noire I am a liberal and an atheist, so you know up front. I absolutely respect your belief in your faith. I want you to know that I don't think Josh proves that all Christians are hypocrites, or that family values are a sham. You are listening to the tro... [See More](#)

Like · Reply · 94 · August 20 at 4:39pm · Edited

24 Replies



Abigail Jackson **Matt Walsh** - You haven't learned a thing. This isn't just about "being imperfect." It is a symptom of the extreme misogyny veiled in "family values" practiced by this sick clan. Josh and every other man in that family have zero respect for women and treat them as nothing more than servants and incubators. Shame on them, and on you for not recognizing it.

Like · Reply · 18 · August 20 at 1:35pm



Robin Fitzgerald Maybe Mr. and Mrs. Duggar felt that the good that their family had to offer was worth the risk. If we all hung in the shadows for fear of past sins resurfacing there would be very few good, Christian examples. Look at St. Augustine, St. Francis of Assisi, just to name a few. Good thing they didn't let their imperfections hinder their desire for perfection.

Like · Reply · 13 · August 20 at 12:51pm

5 Replies



Ashley Caswell People who rape/molest, do not change. They will ALWAYS seek out some type of sexual taboo/deviance. The saddest part about this is, his wife won't divorce him. She will remain married to this morally bankrupt sociopath, further endangering their ch... [See More](#)

Like · Reply · 177 · August 20 at 12:24pm · Edited

94 Replies



Jodee Nicholas Isn't it amazing how the MSM has no problem calling out Josh Duggar's wrong doing (and I agree he was wrong) but they also seem to think it's more important than reporting on the actual murder of a child. And will it stay the center of the media's attention longer than those damning PP videos.

Like · Reply · 171 · August 20 at 12:09pm

22 Replies



Tori Schwindt As a non-Christian, I do not believe all Christians are hypocrites, or that family values are a sham. What concerned me was the Christian community rallying around him with support BECAUSE he's a Christian, with what seems like disregard for the victim... [See More](#)

Like · Reply · 10 · August 20 at 4:34pm · Edited



Claire Kurtin funny how in the eyes of moral "role-model" christians such as yourself, the abuse and rape of little girls is forgivable, yet, as soon as he messes around on his wife... he's a shameful sexual sinner! hate to break it to you, but in no way does prayin... [See More](#)

Like · Reply · 10 · August 20 at 6:17pm



Carl Nelson Well said, Matt.

I have yet to meet the perfect Christian.

But that isn't any excuse for us not to continue to try to become more Christ-like. There is only one example. It isn't a celebrity. It isn't a spiritual leader. It isn't a politician. It is Christ.

Like · Reply · 10 · August 20 at 1:18pm



Christian Wigglesworth This is why I can no longer go to church. I love God; we have a great relationship, but I do not trust my fellow Christians. Time and time again, you have shown me that I and the other children with "invisible fingerprints on our skin," do not matter t... [See More](#)

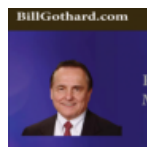
Like · Reply · 8 · August 20 at 5:47pm · Edited

1 Reply



Jenn Vise Samples Something I can agree with you on. Almost 100%. Thank you for admitting you jumped the gun.

The rabbit hole for the fundamental world and the mentalities behind the extreme beliefs is deep, and dark. [Recoveringgrace.org](#) has done much to bring it to light. ... [See More](#)



Recovering Grace: A Bill Gothard generation shines light on the...

RECOVERINGGRACE.ORG

Like · Reply · 10 · August 20 at 3:44pm · Edited



Jen Frankly When I'd give my opinions about the Josh situation, it was as if there were people who thought I needed to give up my Christian card.

There was someone who I used to fellowship with at my former church who blocked me over it... [See More](#)

Like · Reply · 7 · August 20 at 1:37pm



Charles Ashley You had some really good points in there at times... but then you ruined it all with passive-aggressive vitriol towards several other groups and a gross overuse of worship that seriously borders on parroting of a Televangelist. I'd also like to say, wi... [See More](#)

Like · Reply · 7 · August 20 at 1:12pm



Michelle Watt We should be the crowd that puts down the hypocritical stones, and gathers round them in prayer, even if it means the stones hit us instead (in the form of losing friends for praying for them instead of picking up rocks). I wouldn't want any rock throwers around me if I found myself in Anna's shoes, or my worst sins were published for the world on every grocery store shelf and website.

Like · Reply · 12 · August 20 at 12:33pm

6 Replies



Paula Huffman Conry Molesting his sisters is far worse a sin and crime than adultery. Child molestation leaves the child with issues his or her entire life. Christianity has absolutely nothing to do with child molestation. His ass should be in jail.

Like · Reply · 7 · August 20 at 3:05pm · Edited



Pamela Pelletier Well done Matt. Not only for standing up and admitting wrong but for always speaking truth. I feel badly for all involved: his parents, him, the girls, his wife and kids. Yeah I said him...sexual addiction is just as difficult as any other addiction..... [See More](#)

Like · Reply · 87 · August 20 at 12:09pm

7 Replies



Megan Donelli Jurs Sin is a progressive disease. It's never enough once you start it. I am deeply grieved by this situation. Yes, we see Josh Duggar has been caught in his sin---but there are MILLIONS of Christian men who are also leading the same double life. When will The Church REALLY address this? Properly CONFRONT and bring this sin out of the darkness and into THE LIGHT?

Like · Reply · 5 · August 20 at 1:50pm

1 Reply



Laura Raposo Loman You weren't wrong. You responded the way a Christian does, extending grace and leaving judgement to God. You also stressed that people are sinful. Period. You never claimed he was Jesus. We aren't God either and can't discern a person's heart when they repent. God is sovereign. He will judge, or cover with His blood. We only need keep our focus on Him.

Like · Reply · 6 · August 20 at 12:50pm



Jackie Sieben People, to say that someone who has sexually deviated will never change, will never be put right, is to deny the fact that Christ offered everybody repentance, and "whosoever will" has a right to take hold of that repentance. Anybody can change for the... [See More](#)

Like · Reply · 5 · August 20 at 5:09pm · Edited



Kathy Goslant You state that "This revelation was used by many anti-Christian folks as a way to "prove" that all Christians are hypocrites and the whole "family values" thing is a shame, etc.." While I in no way think ALL Christians fall into this group, some do. ... [See More](#)

Like · Reply · 5 · August 20 at 2:01pm



Denise Lane Painter Here's hoping his wife is on the phone right now making an appointment with her OBGYN to be tested for STD's ... and that she's not infected. You guys want to talk about sin and pain, but a big byproduct of going outside your marriage is what you bring back home to your spouse.

Like · Reply · 7 · August 20 at 1:06pm

1 Reply



Michelle Lee Putting what happened when he was 14 years old aside. (not because it was insignificant, but just for the sake of argument). How many

critics of Josh Duggar now with this scandal alone would there be from liberals when this type of lifestyle is prett... [See More](#)

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · 4 · August 20 at 4:25pm · Edited

9 Replies



Rebekah Clark I truly believe God is trying to capture Josh's heart through all this... His sins are all being brought into the light; all his inner darkness is being exposed in brilliance to the whole wide world...something most of us never have had....our sins bei... [See More](#)

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · 7 · August 20 at 2:07pm · Edited

4 Replies



Emily Gamble Shubert I feel terrible for his wife and children. People are imperfect. I am praying for all of the Duggars.

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · 7 · August 20 at 1:13pm



Christy Kik Dorr We need to eradicate from our thought process that there is a person on earth who is "CLEARLY (not) equipped to be a world famous face of Christian values". As believers, (and even as non-believers), we consistently set humans up on a pedestal and attr... [See More](#)

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · 5 · August 20 at 10:27pm · Edited

1 Reply



Christina Egler Borden Well said. Sin is sin is sin is sin... and as you said Christ is the only redemption. I am praying for the Duggars- for the family members who ARE walking with Christ, and who are suffering for the sins of family members choices. THAT too i... [See More](#)

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · 4 · August 20 at 3:49pm



Randy Jessup Wow [Matt Walsh](#) admits his mistakes and everyone piles on to insult him and berate him for not showing enough outrage. [Matt Walsh](#) I found much to admire in the way of organization and acceptance in the Duggars but never watched their show as it was a li... [See More](#)

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · 4 · August 20 at 3:26pm

1 Reply



Kathleen Berg Spencer I've read alot about sexual addiction in order to help those who are held captive by it. He is a classic case. But there is no addiction that can't be overcome through the power of God if a person is willing and wants God more than they love their addiction. I know of many who have been set free!

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · 7 · August 20 at 1:09pm

6 Replies



Barb Spencer Exactly. Why would that family have put their children (even if they didn't know about what was going on with Josh) in the public eye? To me, it's counter to the Christian faith that tells us to basically "let our excellence be our protest".

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · 4 · August 20 at 12:15pm



Juli Reid I am going to make a comment that I suspect will be very unpopular here, but I believe we all need to be reminded. We are all human and we all make mistakes. We all do things that we shouldn't do. Having an affair doesn't necessarily mean you don... [See More](#)

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · 4 · August 20 at 3:18pm

2 Replies



Kimberly Hammond Honestly, giving another Christian the benefit of the doubt, time to explain their side, and willingness to listen is what we should do. But, repentance is what I hoped and prayed was genuine..but, obviously this is not what was in his heart..I pray for his family..how humiliated his wife and mother of his children must be. Instead of taking pleasure in their pain..let's give them privacy and prayer.

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · 4 · August 20 at 1:10pm



Ashlee Erlandson This entire post sickens me. In the past, I have appreciated some of your "truth-telling" but I feel here, Matt, you have MISSED.THE.POINT. This entire situation grieves the heart of God. God is the judge, PERIOD. The Duggar family HAS been a light in ... [See More](#)

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · 4 · August 20 at 2:15pm

1 Reply



Jennifer Combs Minyard "Nobody does it perfectly -- I know I certainly don't - but when we put ourselves in front of the world as role models, we are called to carry an even heavier burden of responsibility. Even those of us without a worldwide audience still have that burd... [See More](#)

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · 4 · August 20 at 1:42pm

[4 Replies](#)



Sarai Dryja Barahona And one more thing, just because he was raised in a "christian" family does not mean he was a Christian. He was a parrot, he learned to mimic and copy. Talk the talk and walk the walk but his heart was never changed or clean. He learned what most Christians learn mimicry and mask wearing. Christ is the only way to change hearts, parents can't, and churches can't. Christ can.

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · 3 · August 20 at 2:17pm · Edited

[1 Reply](#)



Anna Grace Swanson I feel so bad for his poor wife and kids. She has given him everything and has been so self ssacrificing. I hope she has the support she needs and a safe place to go.

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · 6 · August 20 at 1:35pm

[2 Replies](#)



Darrid Sharkey Why do most of you guys talk about deviance as if it's the most abhorrent concept ever? Maybe there comes a time when the norm is the whole problem. I'm pretty sure if Christ didn't deviate from the cultural norm in his life, you wouldn't have Christi... [See More](#)

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · 3 · August 20 at 3:31pm

[4 Replies](#)

[View more comments](#)

50 of 3,943