



The Institute in Basic Life Principles, The Duggars, and Bad Behavior: How Religion, Social Media, and Purity Culture Intersects



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BACKGROUND

The major figures of the Institute in Basic Life Principles (IBLP), including Model Families, can be bad examples for those in the ministry. When bad actors in groups like these participate in immoral behaviors, they put on display a religious group that does not practice what they preach. From leadership to ministry celebrities, these actions can show us how unsafe the practices are. These high control practices, relating to sex and relationships, are the biggest examples of malpractice within the ministry. Allowing for high risk individuals to hold major positions of power and are given space to offend again. Social media plays a large role in the image of groups like the IBLP. Trying restlessly to protect how the world sees them, many families prefer to shove criminal behavior under the rug instead of providing actual punishment for the behavior being shown. In an effort to save face, these groups can oftentimes use their faith to explain away the issues bubbling to the surface.

PURPOSE

This research aims to provide an insight on how the IBLP allows for abuse to run rampant in their communities. Using the media they have released, showing how these groups view themselves and how the world views them, you can see the disillusionment high control religious groups have. Model Families in the IBLP are examples of the best of the best in the ministry, but this does not allow for the issues under the surface to be seen. The lack of proper punishment for abuse in families on the basis of religious teachings can lead to many issues as this group continues their teachings.



Figure 1: The Duggar Family (People)

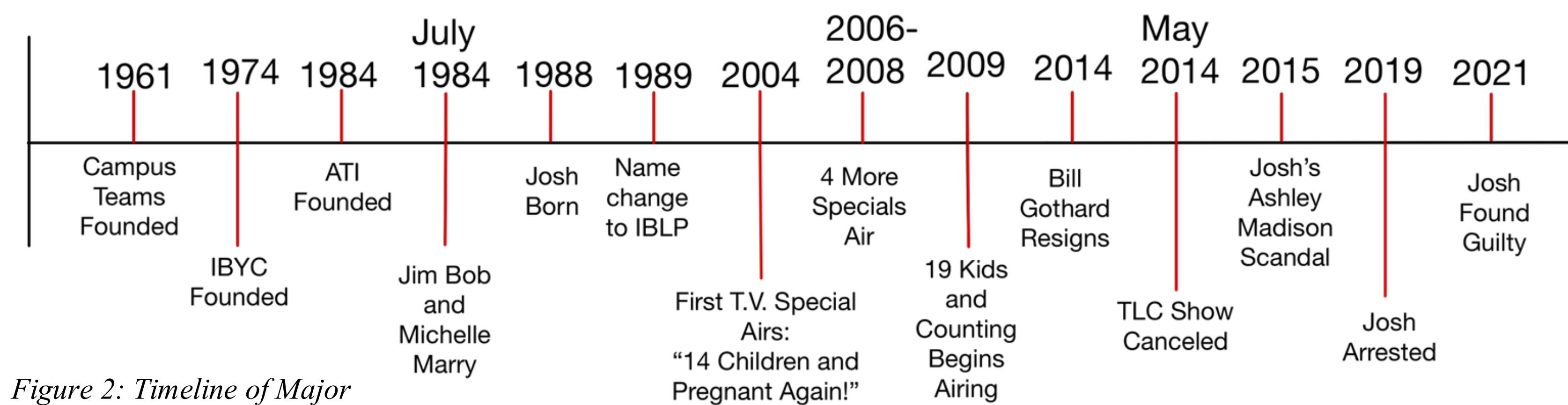


Figure 2: Timeline of Major Events in Paper

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Using various sources, like social media posts and documentaries, two timelines were created. Major events relating to the major figures discussed in the papers and the timeline of Josh Duggar's crimes, these became vital to the paper. Working chronologically, discussing the background of the IBLP allows for the audience to have a basic understanding of the group being discussed. The Duggar family and their inclusion in this work also provides a second example of bad behavior.



Figure 3: Bill Gothard (Recovering Grace)



Figure 4: Josh Duggar's mugshot (CNN)

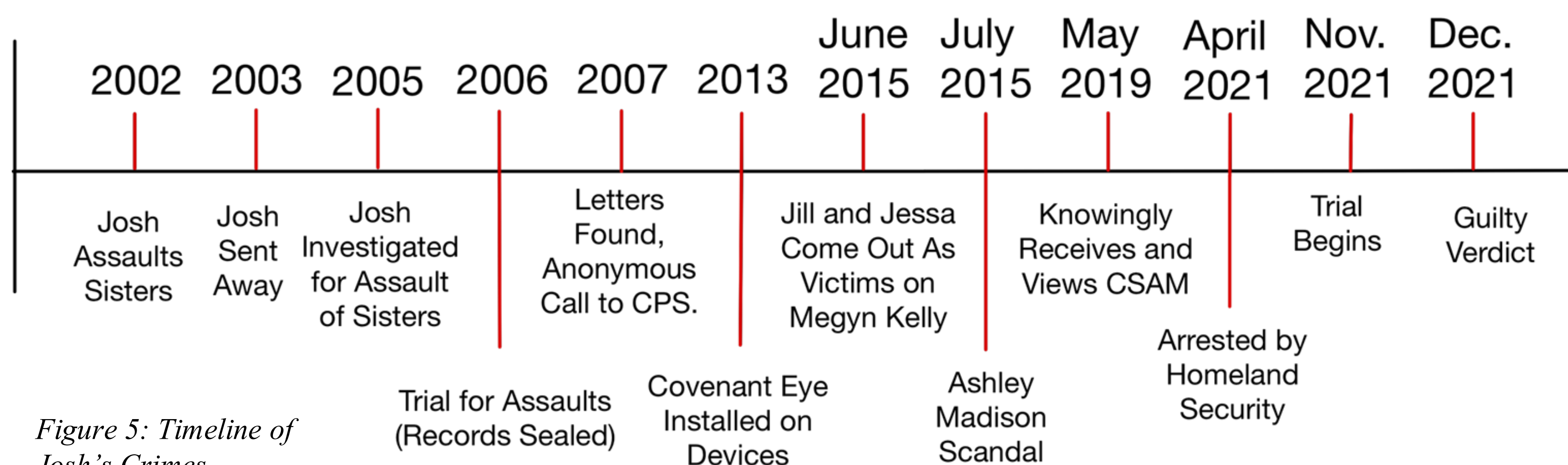


Figure 5: Timeline of Josh's Crimes

RESULTS

The actions of the major figures of the IBLP are just a precursor to the actions of the group as a whole. With the allowance of immoral behavior in the ministry, many families will follow. The culture of groups like the IBLP also fosters an environment that allows for abuse and maltreatment to run rampant. Discussion of these groups is vital when looking at the sharp rise to fame families following similar ministries have experienced. Not everything shown to the public is the reality of the lives led by ministry members.

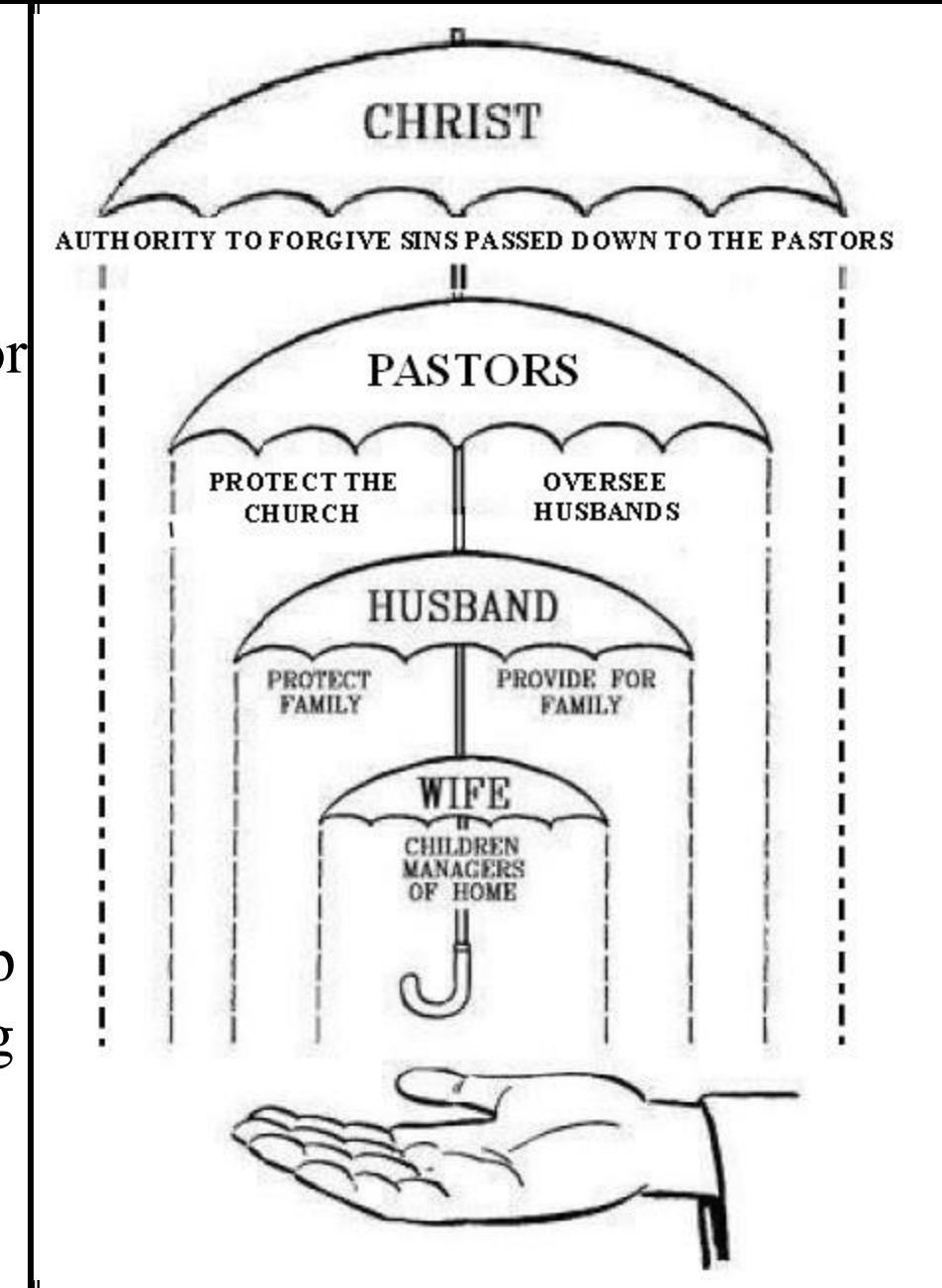


Figure 6: The "Umbrellas of Protection" (Faithfulfamilies.wordpress.com)

CONCLUSIONS

The morals and beliefs of the IBLP are unable to align with the major figures of the group. The actions of the Duggars and Bill Gothard show the disconnect between practice and application. From the top down, these bad behaviors are prevalent. With just the two figures looked at in this paper we are unable to discuss how abuse is a common theme in IBLP and Fundamental families. A change needs to be made in the way ministries like the IBLP are run and how they handle issues regarding sexual misconduct. Changing the narrative on purity would benefit the victims of the abuses by the ministry leaders and family members guilty of these crimes.

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