

US TV Star Phil Robertson Suspended for Anti-Gay Remarks

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Note from Pastor Kevin Lea: Consider the following verses as you read this article:

Blessed are you when men hate you, and when they exclude you, and revile you, and cast out your name as evil, for the Son of Man's sake. Rejoice in that day and leap for joy! For indeed your reward is great in heaven, for in like manner their fathers did to the prophets. Luke 6:22-23 NKJV



The hit reality sitcom follows the Robertson family and their multi-million 'duck-call' business.

US reality star Phil Robertson has been suspended from his TV show following derogatory remarks about homosexuality. Robertson had been asked to describe sin by GQ magazine, and replied: "Start with homosexual behaviour and just morph out from there." He went on to paraphrase the Bible, condemning bestiality and adultery.

TV network A&E said it was "extremely disappointed", adding the comments were based on Robertson's "personal beliefs" and "in no way reflect those of A&E".

More than 9m viewers regularly watch reality sitcom Duck Dynasty in the US. It follows the lives of the Robertson family, a clan with old-fashioned values who live together in Louisiana, running their multi-million dollar family business, Duck Commander - which makes products for duck hunters. The show - now in its fourth series - has broken several ratings records on both A&E and cable television as a whole, with the fourth season premiere drawing 11.8 million viewers.

Interviewed for the January issue of GQ, Robertson said he could not understand why a man would choose to sleep with another man, instead of a woman. "There's more there! She's got more to offer. I mean, come on, dudes! You know what I'm saying?" he was quoted as saying. "But hey, sin: It's not logical, my man. It's just not logical".

Pressed to give his own definition of sin, he first suggested homosexuality, then added: "Bestiality, sleeping around with this woman and that woman and that woman and those men." "Don't be deceived," he continued. "Neither the adulterers, the idolaters, the male prostitutes, the homosexual offenders, the greedy, the drunkards, the slanderers, the swindlers - they won't inherit the kingdom of God. Don't deceive yourself. It's not right."

A spokesman for the Gay And Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) condemned his remarks as "some of the vilest and most extreme statements uttered against LGBT people in a mainstream publication" and said "his quote was littered with outdated stereotypes and blatant misinformation."

Following A&E's decision to place Robertson "under hiatus from filming indefinitely", GLAAD's Wilson Cruz added: "What's clear is that such hateful anti-gay comments are unacceptable to fans, viewers, and networks alike." "By taking quick action and removing Robertson from future filming, A&E has sent a strong message that discrimination is neither a Christian nor an American value."

Robertson released his own statement through the network calling himself "a product of the 60s". "I centred my life around sex, drugs and rock and roll until I hit rock bottom and accepted Jesus as my Saviour. My mission today is to go forth and tell people about why I follow Christ and also what the Bible teaches, and part of that teaching is that women and men are meant to be together. However, I would never treat anyone with disrespect just because they are different from me. We are all created by the Almighty and like Him, I love all of humanity. We would all be better off if we loved God and loved each other..."

To read this article in its entirety, go to:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/entertainment-arts-25444631>