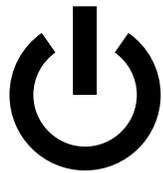


**Speaker:** Tyler & Bree Kramer

**Title:** All About Dating

**Key Verses:** Gen. 2:20–24; Matt. 2 Cor. 6:14 – 16; 1 Cor. 7:1ff; 15:33; Eph. 6:1–3

**Summary:** Discernment in dating keeps your love for God central



**Power Up:** Take a moment to prepare

Most high school romances end in break ups. Sadly, TV and movies portray dating relationships as a foretaste of heaven. Describe some themes you see in teenage, Hollywood romances.



**Replay:** Take some time to watch

Tyler and Bree provide 8 Biblical Principles to Dating with Discernment and responses to 9 Common Dating Questions. (See list on reverse side.)



**Comment:** Take some time to talk

**Read Song of Songs 2:7; 3:5; 8:4.** *What does this refrain teach about sex before marriage? How does the Scriptures speak of sex within the context of marriage? How has culture shaped your concept of sex?*

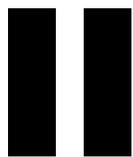
*What makes parents a good resource for our dating relationships?*

*What healthy boundaries do you have for dating? What should be in your “No Go Zone?” How can we be sure to keep our boundaries?*

Tyler says, “Intentions don’t mean anything when your flesh takes over.” *What does this mean? Where is your flesh commonly tempted?*

*What is the goal of dating? Where do you need to grow to become the kind of person you are looking for as a marriage partner?*

*What is “missionary dating”? What makes it troublesome?*



**Pause:** Take a moment to pray

Thank God for human relationships. Thank Him for creating us for community, especially the kind of intimacy shared in marriage. Ask Him for patience as you wait or date with discernment. Ask Him to guard your heart.



**Take Action:** Take a step forward

Tyler and Bree both describe the importance of boundaries. They explain how you should make boundaries before the relationship. Take some time to write out a note to yourself. Call it your “Dating Manifesto.” List ways you plan to stay pure and what patterns you will develop to ensure it.

## Bonus Features | Additional Notes and Quotes from Tyler & Bree Kramer

**Power Track Summary:** Are there really things that you need to worry about when it comes to dating? You're just in high school, so what's the big deal? How far is too far? This Power Track invites similar questions and an open mind as the speakers walk through the topic to land on a better understanding of dating, roles, boundaries, and biblical principles.

**About the Speakers:** Tyler & Bree serve together in youth ministry at Marysville Grace (OH).

Scripture doesn't give direct teaching on dating issues, but it provides discernment. And God gives us discerning people to help protect us.

### 8 Biblical Principles for Dating with Discernment

#### 1. Obey your parents (Ephesians 6:1-4).

"They've been your age. They know how it works. God put them over you to protect you."

#### 2. Set your boundaries before you're in the relationship.

**A Guiding Question:** Would you do this in front of your parent or pastor?

**No Go Zone:** nothing horizontal; no touching or kissing under clothes; no bedrooms.

#### 3. Date and be someone who can say "No."

#### 4. Become the kind of person who is like the person you're looking for.

If you're looking for a pure/godly person, be a pure/godly person.

Dress in a way that says, "I respect myself and others enough to keep them from stumbling."

#### 5. Know the *Why* of the dating relationship.

The goal of dating relationships is marriage. It's not just to have fun or not be alone. Don't stay with someone you can never see yourself marrying.

Most high school relationships end in breakups... Every relationship gives part of you away.

#### 6. Bring boyfriend/girlfriend into preexisting friendships, not vice versa.

#### 7. Don't do "missionary dating" (2 Corinthians 6:14-16; 1 Cor. 15:33).

"If you are striving to follow the Lord, you cannot be in a relationship with someone who is not. If you are not running that race together, they are going to slow you down."

If you're both where you need to be [spiritually] when you start the relationship, it's so much better.

#### 8. Don't look at the potential but look at the patterns.

Potential tells you less about a person than his/her patterns. Patterns give you a picture of their future. A pattern shows you what that person is doing/like.

## 9 Common Dating Questions from High School Students

1. **What do you think about long-distance relationships?**
  - a. It requires lots of good communication, and, when you do get together, observe healthy boundaries.
2. **How do you know if you love someone?**
  - a. "You're willing to lay down your agenda for them. But in order to put them first, you have to put Jesus first."
3. **Is it too late to make boundaries?**
  - a. "No, but it may be difficult to go backward. Write them down and share them with someone who will hold you accountable."
4. **Is there a good age to get married?**
  - a. It's better to marry than burn with passion (1 Cor. 7:10); you want to be mature.
5. **Is getting married right after high school a good idea?**
  - a. "Ask you parents. They know you." It's the exception, not the rule today.
6. **What do you do if you get into a relationship with someone who is not a believer?**
  - a. "Two words: Break up."
7. **What would a Christ-centered relationship look like day to day?**
  - a. It includes a variety of healthy practices (e.g., prayer, devotions), but definitely purity. "You're not just guarding your virginity, but also your heart."
8. **Is premarital sex really that bad?**
  - a. Sex is a good and glorious gift from God in the context of marriage. Keep it in context. "If you have had sex outside of marriage, it does not permit you to continue. When you have sex with someone, it draws you together with someone in way you have not experienced before."
9. **Is it wrong to ask for nude pictures?**
  - a. "Yes. Even though it's digital, you're still giving part of yourself away... Ladies, you are worth more than a picture."