

These are questions I was frequently asked by our girl campers during my time working at a Christian Summer Camp as leadership staff. My team and I always answer with scripture. Some might be one sentence, one word, and one verse. Others may be a paragraph. There is an answer for every question, but sometimes an answer does not give them what they want to hear. Or maybe your answer isn't something you can tell them, and you telling them that you can't tell them your answer is in fact your answer. Remember the context of these questions is that high school girls are asking, not me. Some of the answers you would respond differently to me than you would them.

It is also important to note that this is written more like a proverb than the book of 1 Kings. What I mean by that is that this all is wise guidance not 100% historically accurate. For the purpose is not to discuss exactly what has happened in the past, but to use the past mixed with biblical principles, wisdom passed down from leaders in our local churches, personal experiences, factors of generation Y, factors of our culture, and factors of our society to reverently, cautiously, and humbly pass down the sincerest, wise guidance as possible. You will not find anyone besides a parent who has prayed more over this list than my team.

Why we do this: My personal testimony. I have poured a lot of blood, sweat, and tears (quite literally) serving high school girls for the past two summers, and will be again. I have not the understanding of a parent, but I have the understanding of an older brother. I have prepared all of this with the heart of sharing it with my sister one day, and I have shared, and will continue to share, these wise biblically based words with hundreds of girls with the view of them as my sisters. It is a cold world we live in today for teenage girls. The fact that victoria secreta sells sex appeal to Jr. High girls makes me sick. The enemy has deeply penetrated America, but I wish to combat the lies of this world with everything I have for my little sister, as well as every younger sister in Christ I get the change to speak truth to.

Below is a list of each question. After comes the same list but includes answers. I pray God will use this to bring His kingdom and His will, defeat the enemies' lies, and let His love/ Himself be experienced.

1. **What should I look for in a guy (talking about a guy they would date)**
2. **Should I be dating in High school?**
3. **What should the purpose of dating be?**
4. **When do I know that I'm ready to date?**
5. **How do I "guard my heart", what does that even really mean?**
6. **What do you look for in a girl you want to date?**
7. **Should he set boundaries, and what if he doesn't do I bring it up? And what are good boundaries?**
8. **What is an emotional boundary?**
9. **What does it look like for a guy to lead me, especially in high school?**
10. **Why are guys the leaders of dating relationships? We know they are in marriage but why dating as well? And am I called to submit in a dating relationship?**
11. **If he is a good guy but not a believer, is it ok for us to date? If no why not? (If we are supposed to be equally yoked in order to be married, can't I date him as long as he gets saved before I marry him?)**
12. **How far is to far?**
13. **What if I've already gone to far with my boyfriend is it to late or can we go backwards?**
14. **If I'm in a physical relationship is the only answer breaking up?**
15. **Is it wrong to say, "I love you"?**
16. **Is it wrong to have a guy as my best friend? If so why?**
17. **What does it mean to be content, and how do I practically live that out?**
18. **Don't I have to date people to figure out what qualities I need in a guy? / Don't I have to date someone to see if they have the qualities I'm looking for in someone?**
19. **How can you give us biblical dating advice if dating is not in the bible?**
20. **What if my friends are starting to make bad decisions, how do I keep those friendships without them feeling judged?**
21. **How do I know where to go to college? What's God's will for me going to college?**
22. **Top three things you would tell us going into freshmen year of college?**
23. **How do I discern what God wants me to do with my life?**
24. **What are some practical things to keep in mind with following Christ within the Greek life setting in college?**
25. **How do I know what is true/real beauty?**
26. **Can my standards ever be too high for a guy?**
27. **How do I become a P 31 (proverbs 31) type of woman in the modern times?**

28. Is it wrong to pursue a guy in high school? Should I always let the guy make the first move in being intentional?
29. How do I keep in together when every girl seems to have it all figured out?
30. What should I be investing my time in?
31. How do I balance my time in school and studying with spiritual things?
32. What is your biggest struggle?
33. What are guys biggest struggle in general?

What should I look for in a guy (talking about a guy they would date)

- “They want a proverbs 31 women they have to be a proverbs 1-30 guy
- Titus 1:7 Qualifications of leadership roles in a church are good
- Galatians 5- Fruits of the Spirit
- Philippians 2:3-8, Matthew 20:28, Mark 10:45 Guy **who is like Jesus**.
- Must put his relationship with Christ before anything or anyone else (Including you) – Matthew 22:36-40
- Has a grateful, un-entitled heart (Not a complainer) – 1 Thessalonians 5:18
- Servant-hearted – Galatians 5:13
- Under no circumstance should be addicted to or struggling with sexual sin and porn. – Ephesians 5:3 (If its obvious he is stay away, but this also shouldn’t be a topic that comes up in your friendship).
- Proverbs 20:6- This verse highlights the rarity of faithful men. The first characteristics you should look for concern their character and heart. Amongst those characteristics are their faithfulness in all things: first to God the Father, then to their family, then to their word, and then to their activities/goals, etc. Do they honor their mother and father? Do they sacrifice or leverage themselves for others like Christ? Do they possess virtue and integrity?
- Other scripture to look at: Titus 2:6, 2 Timothy 2:22, Hebrews 13:7

Should I be dating in High School?

- Exodus 20-Do your parents Ok it?
- Are you ready for a relationship? Can you answer question 3?
- Wisdom says no, based of watching the trends of our society. We are a consumer generation. We buy something and we don’t like it we can take it back, we have conversations of Facebook or over the phone and if something happens we don’t like we can just leave. All of this plays into dating. We date until we don’t like something then we leave, this has carried over into marriages too.
- Luke 16:10- Divorce rate, Luke 16:10= us not dating right.
- Mark 10:9/ Matthew 19:6=We are a consumer generation. Can’t take back our husband or wives. Yet we date in such a way
- Romans 12:2= just cause world dates in high school doesn’t mean you have to
- Never talked to a girl who said they wish they had dated more in high school
- It is not accurate to say that there is an absolute answer to this, but I will tell you that I know of very VERY few high school relationships that ever ended up well, much less in marriage. Dating is of far more consequence than we often think in high school. Do you really think that some high school boy is mature (spiritually and otherwise) enough for you to trust him with your delicate, fragile, valuable, and growing heart? And do you think you are mature enough to handle his? You’ve got to understand that the people you entrust pieces of your heart to will affect how it grows. Do you think most of the high school boys around you would handle your heart in such a way that it is going to grow in you the heart of a mature, God-loving woman? So, if you ask me, I would say to wait and not worry about it. You will be amazed at how insignificant that boy will seem some day and you’ve got so much to wait for. Proverbs 11:22- “Like a gold ring in a pig’s snout is a beautiful woman who shows no discretion.” Show discretion in who you choose to share pieces of your heart with. You are beautiful inside and out- don’t settle for a boy who can’t play a part in caring for you like he should. Don’t entrust parts of yourself to someone who isn’t ready for them-it ends up bad for both of you.
- Dating isn’t a Biblical principal. So the question becomes why do you want to date and what is your purpose in dating?
- I think (from experience and the experience of everyone I know) that you should be pursuing friendships
- 1 Tim. 6:6, 1 Peter 5:6; Contentment resides solely in finding yourself whole before God and is independent of circumstances. It is true; God loves to satisfy the desires of our heart. Many of us possess a God-given desire for a spouse and a family in the future, but praying diligently to be humbled under Him so that AT THE PROPER TIME He will lift you up. While we may have the desire to date, marry, all those good things—the primary desire of our heart that we may or may not even be conscious of is to know and be known by our Creator. This isn’t a yes or no question. This is a heart question and a trust question. Is your heart striving for Him? Do you trust Him with your future even while not having a boyfriend/girlfriend?

What should the purpose of dating be?

- 1 Corinthians 10:31- Glorify God
- Genesis 1:18- Marriage. Because marriage is biblical.
- 1 Thessalonians 4:3-8- be physically pure

- 1 Timothy 5:1-2- Be emotionally and spiritually pure
- 1 Timothy 6:6 – not because you *need* one
- Genesis 1:26- Not because you *need* him so you feel valued
- Genesis 2:18; God, even while being in perfect communion with His creation, Adam, saw that

companionship with another brought about a more intimate knowledge with one another and with Himself. What does/What should dating lead to ultimately? A lasting relationship (i.e. a marriage). Otherwise, what's the point if you are trying to live a Christian life? God knew that Adam, in having a companion, would be MORE FIT to know God more intimately BECAUSE he would see God's hand in creating his companion. Make no mistake, dating is a more modern-day construct. There is no clear-cut answer. The purpose of dating rephrased might be: what is the purpose of having relationship (in a deeper sense) with the opposite sex? So that we may better enjoy God and all that He has done FOR US that is evidenced by His creation for a companion.

When do I know that I'm ready to date?

- Exodus 20- Are your parents ok with it?
- Proverbs 12:1, 15:22, What do wise people in your life tell you?
- Do you need Christ more than you need a guy right now? If you are at a place where you think you will not be able to keep God as number one in your heart, you need to be there first. Also, if there are habits/sins/ issues that could be harmful/detrimental to bring into a relationship, they need to be dealt with first. Also, do you think you are mature enough to handle a boy's incredibly valuable heart right t now?
- You'll never be fully ready, you're not perfect. 1 sinner + 1 sinner = more sin.
- Is your relationship with Christ more important than any other relationship in your life?
- A benchmark might be when you have personalized your faith and convictions in Jesus so that you may not be swayed, pressured, forced, etc. to give in or even lower your standards because of the world. —Colossians 1:28-29

How do I “guard my heart”, what does that even really mean?

- Comes from Proverbs 4:23. It means that anything and everything influences your heart, not just dating.
- Matthew 6:22 -What you watch
- 1 Corinthians 15:33. Show me your top 5 friends and ill show you where you will be in 5 years.
- Matthew 7:7-11 = pray God would help you
- Proverbs 12:1, 15:22= seek wise council
- James 5:16= confess your sins and be held accountable
- This common phrase comes from Proverbs 4:23. It talks of the heart being the “wellspring of life”. I don't completely know what that means, but it definitely seems to indicate that the heart is a foundational, central part of our being, from which comes our wellbeing in some sense. I don't entirely understand the idea of guarding a heart and in fact have a question written next to it in my Bible. But, in whatever way I do understand it, it seems to have two sides-what comes in and what goes out. Your heart is a sensitive thing and if you let harmful stuff into it, it can really hurt your heart. Also, if you let trash in constantly, it will in a sense dull and bloat your heart with worthless filth. Scripture seems to indicate to me that the heart is the “feeling” mechanism in us. The second side of guarding your heart, I think, is being careful of what you allow your heart to attach its affections to. Allowing your heart to cling too closely to something unsure (relationships...hint, hint) is a great way to wreck it when those things disappear or disappoint. To guard it might be to shelter it from some of those things that you know it will attach itself to unhealthily.
- Quite literally, you don't necessarily guard your own heart, Jesus has ultimately done that by taking sin upon Himself and dying so that your heart may be presented to God holy and blameless (Col. 1:22). He gave everything precisely for our heart and soul so that we may be restored to communion with our Father. However, we're talking very pragmatically. When Proverbs 4:23 describes how you may guard your heart, it is discussing how your heart is oriented. Is your heart set on God and Him alone? Immediately following that verse Solomon instructs us not to diverge left or right, but be gazing straight ahead (towards God). You can guard your heart by tapping into the Source. What's the Source? His word. He gave it to us with a purpose. We not only know about God, but we know the very characteristics He loves. Fill yourself with the word and He will be faithful to honor His own promises. (Hebrews 4: 12). What does that actually mean? Don't “settle.” Don't give in to sexual temptations (1 Thess. 4:3-7). Pray for spiritual strength (Ephesians 3: 14-20). Let God determine your steps rather than you dictating your own desires to Him (Proverbs 16:9).
- Quick practical list to consider applying: Set emotional and physical boundaries with a guy (more on this coming up). Stop listening to junk, Stop-watching junk. Let you core group of friends be people who will push you to Christ.

What do you look for in a girl you want to date?

- 1 Samuel 16:7, Proverbs 27:19, - Look At her heart
- Proverbs 31:30- Fears the Lord
- Matthew 6:21 – Where is her treasure, what does she value?
- Proverbs 12:1 – Teachable
- 1 Thessalonians 3:3-4
- Beauty isn't external
- Gentle and quite spirit

- Overall, I look for character and maturity. They go hand in hand. I look for things like the fruit of the spirit (Galatians 5:22-23) and the kinds of traits that Proverbs 31 discusses. This is the most important, though- that she loves and fears God most and first. If that is not the case, the relationship will have the wrong focus. Outside from these things, personally, I look for a girl that I know I will have fun with and enjoy my time with.

- Must put her relationship with Christ before anything or anyone else (including me) – Matthew 22:36-40
- Grateful, un-entitled heart (not a complainer) – 1 Thessalonians 5:18
- Servant hearted – Galatians 5:13
- Able to communicate in conflict (doesn't hide or explode).
- Willing to go wherever God leads whenever God leads no matter how He leads.
- Unafraid to speak openly about her Lord and savior – Galatians 1:10
- Knows the Word – 2 Timothy 3:16
- The fruits of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-24). Strength (Esther 4:16). Esther would have died in order to uphold her duty and conviction to her people. That type of character is awfully hard to find, yet that conviction is ONLY found in those women whose purpose transcends themselves. That is what I'm striving for, that is what I want to find in my spouse. A woman who is willing to leverage themselves, their reputation, their resources, for God and for those they love. That and I am dang prideful sometimes, I need a woman to put me in my place, real talk. I want a woman who is so content in Christ that her unique individuality allows her to love me deeply, but not be impressed by me in a prideful sense. I want a woman who prays fervently because she knows that the strength I mentioned is solely from God (1 Samuel 2:1-10).

Should he set boundaries, and what if he doesn't do I bring it up? And what are good boundaries?

- Whole bible= does not address this subject so its not a make or break. He might never have known what it means to set boundaries. IT IS A FLAG THOUGH. And you should bring it up and find out if he thinks boundaries are important and why. If he learns, goes out and seeks wisdom, and comes back with boundaries that's good.

- Ephesians 5:23- The male is the leader. That's why he should set them
- 1 Thessalonians 4:3-4= If he sets boundaries he cares about God's will for your relationship. Physical boundaries are A MUST

- 1 Timothy 5:1-2= A boundary that says you wont do anything that you wouldn't do with your brother or father. EMOTIONALLY BOUNDARIES ARE A MUST

- 1 Corinthians 6:18= boundaries that are fleeing, that guard you from bad situations.
- I believe that yes, he should. If he doesn't bring it up (he should've) then yes, bring it up. Regardless of who starts the conversation, it needs to happen, I think. Boundaries will be different for every relationship and may also need adjusting with time (I know mine have). But, some good things to think through are what boundaries are going to protect you physically, emotionally, etc. Decide what "crossing the line" would be and decide to set yourself up not to get close to that line. Romans 13:14 says "But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires." Don't allow the flesh the opportunity. As example only, I have done things like tell my girlfriend that my hands will not go certain places on her body, we aren't going to pray together except for meals, ect. Boundaries are a balance between starving your relationship and guarding it. You must trust and be sensitive to the Holy Spirit to guide them.

- If the question EVER becomes "should he" set boundaries rather than "he has already" set boundaries then you have yourself a boy (intentional word choice) who is not accepting his unique role as a pacesetter. A man, regardless of how strong a woman is, has been given a unique role by God, himself, to steward a relationship so that it is giving glory to God. When a relationship begins to rest and be habitually dwelling in sexual sin then it is impossible to bring God glory. Yes, impossible. If we deliberately live in sin, then we have forsaken His grace. Obviously, we all sin. That's a given. The point here is the conscious choice to disregard what we know as truth, namely that we are called to FLEE sexual immorality (1 Cor. 6:18), and continue to push the boundaries. I'm pretty stern on this subject. If he doesn't bring it up at all, it's probably indicative that he's more interested in your body than he is in your heart and, therefore, you probably shouldn't even be in relationship at all. Good boundaries rely on the scripture provided above. Additionally, in that same passage Paul describes how our body is NOT our own, but rather was bought with a price and in it resides the Holy Spirit. FLEE. RUN. GET AWAY FROM IT. DON'T MESS WITH IT. Set yourselves up for future success by honoring each other. Remember, if you are both in Christ then that boy/girl is first your brother/sister in Christ and NOT your boyfriend/girlfriend. That is a clear distinction. Your allegiance to one another is first to honor God and encourage one another to the cross rather than satisfy your earthly desires (even if it is a natural desire given by God).

What is an emotional boundary?

- Not in bible explicitly= It is a boundary that will connect you guys in a way that is not physical
- Example: praying together will connect you, Sharing your deepest struggles will connect you
- Song of Solomon 3:5= Don't awaken love to soon
- This is something that is going to make sure that the two of you don't emotionally invest yourself too much in the relationship than is appropriate. It is easy to let your mind slip to the future in a way that is not healthy. What I am talking about is things like talking about marriage before it is appropriate and things like that. It's not healthy to let your heart grasp onto and set its hope on those kinds of things before their time and before they are certain.

- An emotional boundary is something you set to protect your heart from becoming too attached or codependent. Examples of emotional boundaries would be:

- Not saying, “I love you”.
- Limiting the time you spend together.
- Not talking about the future (whether 3 months from now or marriage.)
- Not praying together (Prayer is the most intimate thing you have, it’s you and God. He doesn’t need to be a part of that relationship)
- See above Question #5 about guarding your heart. All of that applies here. Also some things to keep in mind: every time we allow folks into our lives and give them relatively deep truths about ourselves, our family, etc. we are essentially allowing the possibility to get hurt. Hence, the term vulnerability. Sure, this is a good thing in a relationship and entirely needed as you progress into a more committed relationship. However, just because all things may be possible for you, not all things are profitable/helpful (1 Cor. 10:23). It is my belief (I’m open to correction here) that we are not meant to be an open book to everyone and allow each person we may be interested in into the topics/discussions that are foundational to us. Trust is one thing, but being flippant with our emotions is quite another. This is also a key topic where I think older, wiser counsel is essential. A strong spiritual role model can point you to the types of conversations that are appropriate at given times in a relationship. Basically, don’t be impulsive and share your heart about everything just because you think you should or because you’re being asked. There is a time for everything, and often the time is not at the beginning of a relationship when all is peachy and new.

What does it look like for a guy to lead me, especially in high school?

- Philippians 2:3-8= Does he count you as greater than himself
- Mark 9:35= Does he serve you? Leadership is replaceable with the word service.
- 1 Thessalonians 4:3-8= Where does he specifically not lead you
- The best picture of how to lead you is how Christ led the church. First and foremost, he should lead in such a way that encourages you toward Christ. If he is trying to have all of your focus as opposed to directing it to your savior, something isn’t right. More practically though, we can look at Ephesians 5:25-26 “Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word...” Granted this is talking about husbands, but the thing to note is the actions called for. Is this boy willing love you (as a Christian brother, in this situation) and make sacrifices for you? Is your cleansing and holiness his concern? Does he encourage you toward Christ? He won’t be perfect and he will lose focus sometimes (just ask me!), but if these are things that you definitely can’t say about him, then perhaps he doesn’t understand what it should look like to lead you.
- Lots of questions to ask yourself: Does he challenge you? Does he encourage further thought and inquiry into your faith? Does he push you past complacency? Does he encourage your own relationships with friends and spur you to experiencing life as an individual as well as a couple? Does he honor you with his words and actions? Does he listen to your point of view and allow that to encourage him as well? Is he investing in other young men? Central question: does his faith exist and possess strength apart from your faith? Basically, does his love for Jesus rely on you or your relationship? Is he trying to be more like Jesus?

Why are guys the leaders of dating relationships? We know they are in marriage but why dating as well? And am I called to submit in a dating relationship?

- Ephesians 5:25= guys lead because we see them lead in marriage
- Titus 1:5= men are the elders and leaders of the church
- Luke 16:10= if you lead the whole dating relationship, who will lead marriage?
- Whole bible= NO YOU ARE NOT CALLED TO SUBMIT. He is called to serve you but isn’t given authority over you. He is called to treat you like any other person on the planet. With love. But he is to do the same when it comes to authority as well.
- It’s a simple answer. He treats you how he is called to treat everyone.
- I believe that guys are the leaders in a dating relationship because that’s that pattern set up for marriage and it is appropriate to mimic that pattern (to a degree) in a dating relationship. Also, that is just the pattern I see in scripture. I don’t believe you are called to submit in a dating relationship. YOU ARE NOT MARRIED. This means that if he is not leading you well or guiding you in a direction that is not good, he needs to fix it or you need to get out. That’s what you have hopefully figured out by the time you would marry him, so hopefully you can trust he is worthy of being submitted to by that point. But in dating, no way. You don’t need to completely submit to him.
- Dating relationships matter in today’s day and age. Simply stated. Because dating was not relevant to a large degree in Scripture there is a large amount of liberty in how dating relationships are structured and how they progress. There is no perfect template, only a perfect Christ to model your life after. So, because dating is a less committed representation of what a marriage COULD BE, it can give you very strong indications as to who this guy is about and how he would treat you in a committed marriage. Goes back to the central question, why date in the first place? If you’re answer to that is so that you may one day become married, then the same line of thinking for marriage can and SHOULD be applied to a dating relationship, albeit to a lesser extent. WHAT YOU DO IN A DATING RELATIONSHIP MATTERS. So, because dating is a less committed analogy to marriage and we aligning our “criteria” of marriage up with our dating expectations, then we should logically apply what Scripture has to say about marriage and the GOD APPOINTED roles of men and women, perfect as they are. It is paramount to understand: just because your roles are different does not create disparity of value. What do you mean? Just because Ephesians 5:22 calls for wives to submit to their husbands does not mean they are any less of value or worth than the man. That DOES NOT elevate men to a status greater than the wife. This view is called complementarian. They both have

extremely important roles to fulfill and accept that are given to them by God according to their attributes that God himself made. Since we are to become one flesh in marriage and, subsequently, to accept gender roles as defined in Scripture, it follows that we can begin to cultivate these types of roles in a dating relationship.

If he is a good guy but not a believer, is it ok for us to date? If no why not? (If we are supposed to be equally yoked in order to be married, can't I date him as long as he gets saved before I marry him?)

- What's the purpose of dating to you little one?
- 2 Corinthians 6:14= don't be unequally yoked.
- 1 Corinthians 15:33= You become like those your around most.
- There is a reason why God did not have Israel marry with other people groups.
- Matthew 18:24-24= Your just satisfying yourself and your selfish desires
- Who is in control of whether or not he gets saved before you are married? God. Why jump into something

assuming an outcome you have no control over? That's foolish. Dating, in a sense, is a small-scale mock-up of marriage. If marriage is a picture of Christ and the church (Ephesians 5:32), then what sense does it make that the man who is supposed to represent Christ in the relationship doesn't even know him?! It's like trying to chew steak with no teeth or trying to hammer a nail with a screwdriver. You have the wrong tool for the job. The job is glorifying God in your relationship and a non-believer plus a believer is not how that job is initially designed to be done. He may be a great guy, but if he is spiritually dead and you marry him (the purpose of dating, remember?) then as the two of you become one (Ephesians 5:31) half of your spiritual body is dead

- "Unequally yoked" refers to when one ox would be stronger than the ox next to it, the result being the weaker ox pulling the stronger one back with it. You will almost only go backwards in your relationship with Christ if you enter a relationship with a non-believer.

- What if he doesn't get saved?
- My take (not perfect, but after years of witnessing heartache and blowups): NO. Just read Romans 8:8- "Those who are in the flesh cannot please God." If the desire of your heart and the purpose of your life is to live for God and become more like Jesus so that His kingdom may be expanded, then, by definition, you are not of the same mind as the world. In fact, the world hates the things of God. Yes, that strong of word choice. They are polar opposites. We were ALL at one time far from God, but because of His grace and appointment, He brought us near to Him and saved us. It is a profound mystery and a mercy we cannot understand, nor should understand. So, when we take it upon ourselves to "convert" a guy/girl simply to satisfy our own desires to date them, it actually is going against the sovereignty of God in being able to save them. God will save that guy/girl if He wants wills it. If His desire is that they may be saved, then it will be done. Make no mistake, it would be to save their souls and reconnect them in relationship to Himself and NOT just because you wanted to date them. Let the guy/girl come to love Jesus Christ without you and trust that if God desires for y'all to be in relationship, then He will bring you back together. If you read 1 Cor. 7 specifically verses 8-16 it discusses how a married husband or wife that is a believer and whose spouse is not a believer may sanctify the unbelieving partner. This is a great text to compare your thinking with, yet realize dating has similarities to, but is NOT EVEN CLOSE to marriage. If your heart loves Jesus and yearns to grow deeper in relationship with Him, don't you want to share that part with the person you're dating?

How far is too far?

- 1 Thessalonians 4:3-8= Anything that causes sexual immorality. That means mentally as well. Matthew 5:28. And guys can NOT make out and not lust

- 1 Timothy 5:1-2= Don't do anything you wouldn't do to your parent or brother
- Obviously, scripture draws a few lines for us. "You shall not commit adultery."- Exodus 20:14. "But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity..." – Ephesians 5:3(a) These are pretty direct and we can pretty well assume what kinds of things definitely fall into the arenas of "sexual immorality" and "impurity" and those things we should definitely stay far from. But it becomes difficult to know how far is too far because that has much to do with small subtle actions; the kinds of actions that may not be seen as "huge sins", but are nonetheless important not to go past. Whatever this line of "too far" is for you (determined by your conscience, wisdom, and the scriptures) it should be set such that you don't do anything in a relationship that is going to cause a brother or sister in Christ to sin, whether that is mentally/emotionally (lust, ect.) or physically (1 Corinthians 10:32, Romans 14:13). An example might be that the guy decides that his hands will never touch a certain place on a girl's body before marriage because he doesn't want the two of them to be tempted to lustful thoughts or actions. Even though they wouldn't be committing "sexual immorality" perhaps, it may still be too far just for his hand to go there just because it would tempt them in their thoughts. It is also important to be vigilant to stay **far from** what you believe to be sin. (Proverbs 5:8, 1 Corinthians 6:18)

- Wrong question. Examine your motives and pray Psalm 139, Lamentations 3:40 over yourself. Allow God to mold your desires with His. A more appropriate question might be: how can we be effective at fleeing sexual immorality as we are called to do (1 Cor. 6:18, 1 Thess. 4:3-5, 1 Cor. 10:13, Matt. 5:28)? If you're flirting with the line, a better question might be what are your convictions about sexual sin in the first place? 2 Tim. 2:22- "So flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart."

- The question is flawed. "How far is too far?" is just another way of asking "How close can I get to the line without sinning?" when you should be running from the line!

What if I've already gone to far with my boyfriend is it to late or can we go backwards?

- 2 Cor 5:21- you don't have to go backwards, you don't have to get back to ground 0, you start at ground 0 when you realize what God's done for you
- James 5:16- confess and be healed
- Isaiah 1:18- your white as snow
- 2 Tim. 2:19-"But God, firm foundation stands, bearing this seal: "The Lord knows those who are his," and, "Let everyone who names the name of the Lord depart from iniquity." Hebrews 12:5-7, 1 John 1:9. There is no "going back." What's done is done. However, we do not EVER have to continue the patterns of unrighteousness and sin we have been practicing. We are called to confess our sins, accept grace, pursue righteousness, and then Galatians 5:1 comes in with a slam dunk-"For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to the yoke of slavery."
- What you can do is start over, from the beginning. No kissing, no "I love you," no staying out however late, etc. Starting over and setting new, Godly safe boundaries in place and changing the whole way you did the relationship in the first place. (If he isn't all-in on this, and isn't leading the new relationship break up with him).

If I'm in a physical relationship is the only answer breaking up?

- No, but are you willing to if that's what God has for you?
- I'll answer both of these together (13&14) because I think they are pretty much the same question. A lot of this comes as personal opinion/experience/wisdom I've gotten from others, so take it with a grain of salt. Just because you have gone too far or your relationship has gotten physical, doesn't necessarily mean that you have to break up or there is no turning back. Now, if your relationship is built and supported by its physicality, you might find that you will break up anyways because there may not be anything of substance there once you take the physical away. If you decide not to break up and to try and back up, though, it's going to be very hard. Once you have gone "too far" it is incredibly easy to go back there because that's already where you've pushed the limit. So, if backing up is what you are trying to do, you are going to have to be incredibly vigilant and wise not to let yourselves get anywhere close to any physical line that will cause you to slide back to where you were. This is where hard-and-fast, very conservative boundaries may be essential. Also, I think you are going to need some serious accountability. You are endeavoring to climb uphill, back up a mountain, and you have to have a good brother or sister in your corner to hold you very accountable and encourage you to stay the course (Proverbs 17:17, Proverbs 27:17). To go backwards is to go against the grain you've already set and I think you need dependence on God, wise boundaries, and brothers/sisters to help you "avoid sexual immorality" and "to control [your] own bodies"- 1 Thessalonians 4:3-8
- Hebrews 12:11-"For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it." I don't think the question is necessarily the right one to be asking. Rather you might say, "If I'm in a physical relationship would it be wise to break up?" Assuming you have begun the process beginning in question 13 and have started to receive discipline, be corrected following genuine confession and then begun to pursue the righteousness that comes from repentance, then I think wisdom will direct the answer to that question. Perhaps it may be breaking up for a time so that you can heal from some of the emotional scarring and the physical intimacy that you once had. However, BOTH parties have to be engaging in this process. If it's just one of you, I'd say that wisdom would probably say break up. There isn't a yes and a no, but rather a more intentional prayer asking God to give you wisdom and discernment about how to proceed. He's faithful, no doubt about it. He's also sovereign. What that means is if He sanctifies both you and the other girl/guy then maybe He will return you to relationship someday. That is a matter of trust in the Lord. However, I'd say it would be appropriately wise to seek the forgiveness and grace of Jesus independent of the other person and see how He leads you in the future.

Is it wrong to say, "I love you"?

- Doesn't say in bible don't tell your boyfriend I love you
- Song of Solomon 3:5- all the wise council I've sought has said don't say this until you literally are ready to put a ring on it
- Not that I see in scripture, no. That being said, it may not be wise to say that as that may cause an emotional attachment that's not appropriate for the stage you are at. In my mind, this is a prime example of what we talked about in question 8 (emotional boundaries). I think the reason for this is much more because of the implications our culture has built around that phrase and not so much what it exactly means.
- Women and men alike need to realize how much of a loaded question this is and also how variable a response you will get. It is completely subjective and folks deal with the deep, profound connection that love entails in unique ways. Consequently, I, nor anyone else, can say definitively a "yes" or a "no" to this question. This would be another instance in which I would direct you to pursue and intentionally pray for wisdom and discernment. Is there inherently anything wrong with saying "I love you?" I would certainly say no. However, if the question is, "Is it wise to say I love you in a dating relationship?" then I would say perhaps it is better to refrain until you are mature enough to understand the full meaning of the word. Song of Solomon 2:7, 3:5, 8:4 all describe allowing love to be awakened at a proper time. So what's the proper time? There is no clear-cut answer to that, but I think there is wisdom and non-wisdom in there. These situations describe that love is not impulsive and is not merely a feeling. In this day and age we are told by culture, by books, by friends, by media to "follow your heart." However, in Jeremiah 17:9 we're told that the heart is deceitful. If given to emotion, our heart will often choose to express love with little care to what the repercussions are. Make no mistake, when you say "the magic words" there are consequences: good and bad. I would not promote or dictate a straight-forward answer, but rather encourage caution and intentional prayer for wisdom and allow God

to truly lead you. In 1 John 4 we are told that God himself is both the author of and the essence of love, Himself. So, if we want to say, "I love you", hadn't we sought the direction of the ONE WHO IS love?

Is it wrong to have a guy as my best friend? If so why?

- Doesn't say in the bible to not have a guy be your best friend
- Proverbs 4:12- realize that you are way more vulnerable with a guy because you are wired to be that way. But you don't want that to justify you telling a guy everything
- Proverbs 27:17- sharpening comes from other men
- Biblical truth: you're either married or single: would you have a best friend that's a guy when you married?
- Well, I haven't noticed, "Thou shalt not have a best friend of the opposite gender" yet in the Bible. I think it's dangerous, though. Proverbs 12:26 says "A righteous man is cautious in friendship, but the way of the wicked leads them astray." This is how I see it. In the beginning God made woman for man as a companion (marriage-Genesis 2:18-25). Obviously, we also see friendships between girls and guys in scripture that seem to be just great and acceptable- just look at Jesus, Mary, and Martha. But, what we call a "best friend" is closer than all the rest. A best friend is someone who you hold as a close and trusted companion (e.g. David and Jonathan). If someone of the opposite gender fulfills that role for you, I see it being super easy to start accepting them into your heart in a spousal kind of way. That is simply what a human (me) sees in scripture and is a pattern he has definitely seen in life with people he knows. Based on scripture, no I don't think it is wrong, but I don't think it is wise, either.

What does it mean to be content, and how do I practically live that out?

- 1 Timothy 6:7- whatever you have is enough, you aren't taking more with you, this is being Godly 1 Tim 6:6
- Philippians 4:11-13- Christ means more to you than anything in this world. You don't need X to feel good, better about yourself, successful.
- Matthew 6:16-21- your treasure is in heaven
- Matthew 6:25-34- being content is the about of being anxious. It comes from a trust in God and belief in his goodness to provide.
- Jeremiah Burroughs (brilliant Christian man from the 1600's who wrote a book on Christian contentment) defined Christian contentment as "that sweet, inward, quiet, gracious frame of spirit, which freely submits to and delights in God's wise and fatherly disposal in every condition." In Philippians 4:11 Paul says, "I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances." Later in his book, Burroughs highlights that contentment doesn't lie in simply pleasing God, but in **being pleased** with whatever God chooses. This means that whether God gives you a boyfriend or not or puts you out on the street or in a mansion or makes you healthy or gives you cancer, contentment means that you are pleased that He has chosen that for you because you can trust that He wants your good and His glory (Isaiah 43:6-7, Romans 8:28)
- 1 Tim. 6:6, Phil. 4:11-12, Matt. 6:33—Contentment resides in God alone and can only be found when He is the true apple of our eye. Rest in His sovereignty, His provision, His sustenance, His grace, His blessings and all the good things that He bestows on us without being entitled. When we seek first His kingdom, then things tend to work out exactly as He wills. Don't be clouded in judgment when everyone around you seems to be invested entirely in his or her relationships. Trust that God knows exactly what He's doing, when He's doing it, and whom He may be preparing you for. Perhaps singleness is where you're at for a specific purpose so that growth may happen in you that attracts the one you most seek.

Don't I have to date people to figure out what qualities I need in a guy? / Don't I have to date someone to see if they have the qualities I'm looking for in someone?

- 2 Timothy 3:16- To say you need anything outside of scripture itself or what scripture advises is to say that scripture isn't sufficient. The answer is everything you need to know about a guy is in here.
- Yes and no... quite honestly I believe you could know everything about a girl you need to know by being friends. BUT, I don't think dating just to date is a good idea.
- Do you have to drive a car to figure out if it is an SUV, is red, and has four-wheel drive? No. I just have to look at it. You should be able to figure out relatively well the character of a man just by watching him/being friends with him (Matthew 7:17-18). Also, going into a dating relationship without already knowing what character qualities you want/expect in a guy is a great way for your values to change back and forth and perhaps for the worst in the relationship. I would challenge you to know/seek to find out what qualities you want/need in a man **before** you date one. How? Look around and be observant of the men around you that you respect and think about what about them makes you respect them (Proverbs 14:15). Second and most important, is to look at what scripture says about what you should look for in a guy (see question 1). Know before you go!

How can you give us biblical dating advice if dating is not in the bible?

- 2 Timothy 3:16- Literally read the verse. To say you need anything outside of scripture itself or what scripture advises is to say that scripture isn't sufficient
- Is how to run a business like a Christian should in the Bible? No. The Bible does not explicitly give us directions for how to date, but it does teach us in what MANNER we should live and that informs how we date.
- Omission does not mean it doesn't matter. There are a vast multitude of topics not covered in Scripture and even more that Christ, himself, did not directly address. However, culture changes and we along with it. Generally we don't have

arranged marriages. Does that mean since we don't often practice-arranged marriages any longer that they are inherently wrong? No. The main argument is relinquishing control of all things and being obedient to God in the midst of a circumstance. It is adopting a Romans 8:25 mentality that hopes in what cannot be seen, yet waits with patience. It's a Hebrews 11:1 mentality that we have a faith that we seek by being obedient to conviction. It's a 1 Peter 1:13 mentality of preparing ourselves for a defense and setting our hope on Christ alone.

- The Bible talks a lot about friendships and how they should look (ex. Romans 12).

What if my friends are starting to make bad decisions, how to I keep those friendships without them feeling judged?

- Matthew 7:1-5- Check yourself first. Then lovingly call them out. If they aren't open to correction give it time, and try again.
- Proverbs 27:5-6= tell them your heart as to why your calling them out.
- John 15:18- Christ went through the same thing. He was hated. He was betrayed by his best friend
- James 4:16- it is a sin for you not to say something to them if they are claiming to follow Christ
- The first thing I would say is that if your friends are starting to make bad decisions, you need to be very careful of how close you start holding those friends (Proverbs 12:26, 1 Corinthians 15:33). Perhaps these friends shouldn't be your closest ones. But, you are to "correct, rebuke, and encourage -with great patience and careful instruction." (2 Timothy 4:2) (James 5:19). You should speak truth to them with grace (Colossians 4:6). That is your first responsibility. Their reaction and what they think of you is not in your hands. You have to be willing to let the relationship go if it means you were speaking to truth in love.
- First, remain steadfast in trial (2 Peter 3:14, James 1:2, James 1:12, Proverbs 1:15, Proverbs 3:1). Second, understand that you were once in their position whether you realize it or not. We were all as the prodigal son who was far off from his father and abandoned his inheritance. Understand that we all like Paul in Romans 7 who kept doing the very things he hated. Personalizing our own sin and then recognizing that God's grace alone is sufficient turns the tables. Once removing the log out of your own eye, I would seek counsel from someone older and wiser who may have had experience going through the exact situation. Then, live out your faith according to 1 Peter 1:22 in loving one another so that your light may shine before those that may not be living for Jesus. His Spirit moves mightily when we are faithful.

How do I know where to go to college? What's God's will for me going to college?

- Romans 12:1-2- Don't think like every one else. Don't act like everyone else. Let God's word renew your mind. And then test and approve his will.
- Matthew 7: 7-12- Ask. Seek. Knock. Because God is good and gives good gifts to those who ask him.
- Philippians 4:6-7- Don't be anxious! Be thankful through the decision (1 Thes 5:16-18) be persistent in asking.
- Matthew 6:25-34- Don't be anxious! Such a good time to let your faith be tested and strengthened.
- Where you go to college is not a right or wrong decision- it's a right or left. I think a more appropriate question to ask is "How does God want me to honor him at whatever college I go to?" When Saul was anointed king of Israel, Samuel told him "Once these signs are fulfilled, do whatever your hand finds to do."-Samuel 10:7. Unless you feel that God is clearly leading you one way or the other, just make a choice. God won't let you act contrary to His will (Job 42:2)
- Unless the audible voice of God speaks to you, you probably won't. That shouldn't deter you from going to a school you feel called to or truly like. God loves to satisfy the desires of our hearts when we are adamantly seeking him (Psalm 37:4-7). He wants to equip you spiritually and encourage growth intellectually as well, so far as it is glorifying to Him. Knowledge for knowledge sake will only puff the ego. Pray for wisdom and discernment, if confused prayer through the Lord's Prayer (Matt. 6:9-13) and expect Him to lead you as He wills.

Top three things you would tell us going into freshmen year of college?

- Proverbs 12:1- Teachability
- James 5:16. Authentic vulnerability
- Romans 12/Acts 2:42-47. Authentic community
- Find Christian community
- Get plugged into a church body
- Be diligent in the responsibilities you will have, but don't forget to have fun and don't sweat the small stuff
- Connect with a community of believers (Church community, friend group, mentor, all that jazz).
- Maximize your moments! (Don't waste a ton of time; take advantage of your short college years while you have them! Don't procrastinate but study hard, enjoy community, and do everything to the best of your ability).
- Meet new people! Most of you are probably wishing you took advantage of your years in high-school to be a witness and get to know people you sat in class with for four years. Don't make the same mistake! College is a perfect mission field and He has called us all to be missionaries! Show off Christ's everywhere you go with everyone you see, be a light!

How do I discern what God wants me to do with my life?

- Refer to 21
- So many scriptures on His will/ see John 6:40, Ephesians 5:1-20, Eph 6:5-8
- Just Google it

- First off, there is what is called God's revealed will. This is his 66-book letter that He wrote to us (the Bible). There are things that God explicitly reveals to us that we should/shouldn't do (like worship and thank Him or don't commit adultery) in the Bible. Two scriptures that are good overviews of God's revealed will are Micah 6:8- "He has showed you, O man. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." And Ecclesiastes 12:13- "Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man."

- Second, in terms of your every day decisions that aren't explicitly delineated in scripture, I would say much the same as in question 21.

- Romans 12:2
- 1 Thessalonians 4:3
- 1 Thessalonians 5:18
- Matthew 28:18-20
- Listen (Matt. 11:15), take up your own cross (Matt. 16:24-25), seek wisdom and advice (Prov. 20:18, Prov. 22:17-19), and commit (Prov. 16:1-3).

What are some practical things to keep in mind with following Christ within the Greek life setting in college?

- Matthew 10:32-33. READ THE VERSE
- John 15:34-35. READ THE VERSE
- John 14:15. READ THE VERSE
- MATTHEW 28:19-20
- Matthew 16:24-25
- The first thing I would say is make sure that there are at least a few believers in the house (Proverbs 17:17, Ecclesiastes 4:8-9). If you are to walk well with Jesus in a Greek house (or anywhere, for that matter) you've got to have brothers (or sisters) to walk through it with. When you are rushing, try to find girls in your potential pledge classes who are the kinds of believer that you think you can walk through life with and make sure you end up with them if you can. Perhaps you don't end up with them and have to find Christian community elsewhere. That's fine-just make sure you do.
- Second, I would just admonish you again to know what isn't worth compromising and hold strong in your resolution not to compromise it.
- Also, take advantage of the opportunities to love those around you. A Greek house presents an amazing and unique opportunity to love on those who don't know or follow Christ (Ephesians 5:15-16)
- Don't think it won't be hard or lonely. This is nothing that is new to any believer in any situation (Acts 14:22). It's just easy to think that college is going to be a blast and nothing else. It is a blast, but if you are following Jesus in it, don't think there won't be hard times.
- (Eph. 4:29, Eph. 5:4) Read Proverbs every day! Do not stray to the left or right, but continue on in the way in which you have learned and firmly believe (Eph. 4:20, 2 Tim. 3:14), and continue to grow deep roots in the Lord. Do NOT be deceived either by yourself or by other's empty teaching/lifestyle (Col. 2:8).

How do I know what is true/real beauty?

- John 17:17- Know what God says about beauty because his words are truth
- 1 Samuel 16:7- beauty isn't external
- Genesis 1:26/ Psalm 139:13- He made you and he doesn't make mistakes
- 1 Thessalonians 3:
- Proverbs 31:30- external beauty is fading
- What does scripture say? Proverbs 31:30, 1 Peter 3:3-5, 1 Timothy 2:9-10. An inner beauty, right?

Can my standards ever be too high for a guy?

- Romans 3:23- YES
- (Few examples) Psalm 51:16-17, Psalm 139:23-24, Proverbs 12:1, Philippians 2:3-8, Mark 9:35- He needs to be broken, teachable, humble, and servant hearted.
- I'll be honest and say I don't really have a full answer to this one and the answer I have is human thought. A few thoughts, though...If you are lowering some important standards just to make a certain guy fit into them, think again. Also, high standards are phenomenal, but know which ones are realistic (guys are humans, too) and are appropriate to move or forget about and which ones you need to keep where they are. Let me illustrate my point. If you have in your mind that a guy has to never pick his nose and be godly, you need to know which one of those standards is ok to drop and which one isn't. Godly? Super important-don't drop it. Pick his nose? Not important- grow up.
- Don't settle, and don't date potential.

How do I become a P 31 (proverbs 31) type of woman in the modern times?

- Romans 12:1-2= quite living like the rest of the world!! And thinking like them
- Ephesians 5:15-17= don't waste your time
- 1 Corinthians 15:33= don't hang out with bad company
- Proverbs 15:22- seek council

- Matthew 28:19-20= Get Discipled
- “But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness and all these things will be given to you as well.”-Matthew 6:33 Let me also point to the scriptures from question 25. In terms of “How do I be like that?” Well, spend time studying the woman in Proverbs 31 if you want to be like her. What does she do? How does she act? How does that relate to today? Also, find her in today- do you know a woman who strikes you as that Proverbs 31 kind of woman? Go talk to her. Ask her how she lives life. Watch how she lives life. Let her rub off on you. (2 Timothy 2:2) Ask her how she does it.
- Phil 2:2-11; Pray diligently that He would make you into such a woman as that. (Phil 1:6); pray for the fruits of the spirit (Gal. 5:22-24); become enamored by the Word of God and let that define your life.
- Drench yourself in the Word. Isaiah 55:11 says that His word will not return void.
- 2 Timothy 3:16-17

Is it wrong to pursue a guy in high school? Should I always let the guy make the first move in being intentional?

- Not in scripture
- Ephesians 5: The model of marriage we use says the guy leads
- “The treasure doesn’t do the hunting”
- Wisdom says yes:
- I’m not sure of exact scriptures on this one. I just see a pattern of guys pursuing girls in the Bible, particularly in the example of Christ and the Church (Ephesians 5). As I’ve watched guys pursue girls and vice versa, I have simply observed that in many of the cases where girls were pursuing guys hard, the relationship wasn’t really a healthy one and the guy wasn’t really the leader. This means that as the girl you’ve got to be patient and to be content (see question 17), which is hard. I’m not saying its wrong if you like him and kind of show it (Ruth?), but I think he should make the first intentional move toward relationship.

• Culturally speaking, not necessarily. Biblically speaking, yes. There are plenty of instances, even in solid Christian relationships, where a girl can make somewhat of a move that ‘pursues’ the guy. This isn’t necessarily a bad thing for the girl to give a hint that she likes a guy, especially if the guy isn’t an extroverted, go-getter type of a guy. However, the kind of man that almost all women want in their lives are men that accept responsibility, are confident in who they are, strong leaders, and are pro-active in pursuing a relationship (at any level) with a girl. Is it wrong for a girl to make a small gesture or symbolic type of ‘move’? No. But the guy should be able to take a hint and be the primary driver in pursuing the woman. The age-old process of courting is a great practice and makes the woman feel honored, respected, and cared for because she is able to recognize that it takes intention and time for a man to “win” her hand. All strong men in the Scriptures are men that lead by example. I would advise girls to seek out these types of men. Accordingly, these are the type of men that won’t really be passive about this sort of thing.

How do I keep in together when every girl seems to have it all figured out?

- John 17:17- Know the truth of Gods word. No one has it all together
- Jesus has it all together. He is the answer, he doesn’t call you to have it all figured out, he calls you to have Him figured out.
- This type of thing is true of people in general. It’s a defense mechanism that people use to put up a façade that emotionally, spiritually, physically, financially, etc. they have it all under their control when, in reality, they know that things may be spinning out of control. The heart is deceitful and time and again we are warned to not deceive ourselves (1 Cor. 3:18, James 1:22, Gal. 6:3, Jer. 17:9). God is the only one that knows our hearts, desires, thoughts, wants, needs, deepest yearnings, and every detail in between (Psalm 139, Prov. 21:2). So, take heart, God is for you and He will take upon himself everything that may be burdensome and establish you in every way as you seek Him (Heb. 12:1-2, Matt. 11:25-30).
- First, its important to know that regardless of whether or not they have ever been in a play, most humans are really good actors. Everyone hurts, everyone has something not figured out, no one is perfect, and most don’t want anyone to see it. To think that you are hurting or messed up and everyone else is just cruising on in life is a cancerous lie. We are far more in the same boat than we often realize. Romans 3:23 “For ALL have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God” (emphasis added).
- Second, the only person who can handle that entirely is Christ. He said “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.” So, where do you find “rest for your souls”? –Only by taking it to Jesus!

What should I be investing my time in?

- Romans 5:8, John 1:12- your relationship with God
- John 17:17, Psalm 1, 2 Timothy 3:16- Gods word
- Matthew 28:19-20=making disciples
- Hebrews 3:13- encouraging others.
- The answer to this question in many ways is very subjective, but I will put forth my experience and some things I think are important for everyone to do. Invest in something where you are learning the Word (2 Peter 3:18). Invest in a church body (a place to serve) (Hebrews 10:24-25). Involve yourself in the places where God has naturally given you passion (1 Samuel 10:7). Honor God in being involved in those things (1 Corinthians 10:31). Invest in relationships (2 Timothy 2:2)- they are what you have when everything else burns. And of course, invest in your walk with your savior most. (Matthew 6:33) Also,

be careful of how much time you invest. If you spread yourself too thin in many things, you might be worthless in them all. Invest yourself well in a few things.

- Things that you are most passionate in and that bring God the most glory. Strike the balance well between things that pour into you and, reciprocally, you pour out into others. Works are never needed for salvation, but are the only correct response in receiving God's grace and beginning to live a life for the kingdom. (Col. 1:29, Col. 3:23, Phil. 2:2-8, Eph. 2:8-10, 1 Cor. 9:24-27, James 1:22, James 2:18)

How do I balance my time in school and studying with spiritual things?

- Proverbs 15:22- seek council. ASK your councilors
- You'll always make time for what's important.
- There's not much I can tell you because, in my experience, understanding this balance comes very much from trial and error and learning to refine the balance as you go. There's no formula. But I will say this. School and time in school will take time from you without you trying. Time spent in your walk will take discipline. The pattern of the world is to draw you from Christ into anything else. Thus, you will find that the bulk of your effort in discipline will be exerted to pull you from busy activities and towards time with Him. Hebrews 12:11 says, "No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it." Put good thought into your priorities and based on that learn what things to sacrifice when you run out of time in the day (because you will).

- (John 15:5-11, Phil. 2:14-16, Phil. 4:4-9, Luke 16:10, Prov. 20:6) Faithfulness. Make no mistake, if you are in high school and college, there is great purpose and intention that God has for you in being there. It isn't simply to stretch your mind, it isn't simply to learn from others, it isn't simply to live out your faith, it isn't simply so you can get a piece of paper that says you did it...it's all of that and infinitely more. Many students today take for granted the wonderful blessing of an education, even in college. It is a means to an end. Each day is a miracle given us in which we are recipients of scandalous grace and we have an opportunity to be a part of God's grand redemptive story for the people of this world. School, clubs, sports, societies, fraternities, dumb math classes, pointless lectures, etc. all CAN be a part of that. It's recognition that God can use even the smallest amount of faithfulness to bring about the greatest amount of glory for Himself.

- If you have to say "no" to something then say no. Don't become victim to FOMO.

What is your biggest struggle

- DO NOT ANSWER
- Proverbs 27:17- your not my iron
- Ephesians 5: your not my wife

What are guys biggest struggle in general?

- Pride- James 4:6
- Adultery- Matthew 5:28
- In general, from what I have seen and my personal experience, guys generally struggle with lust and pride.