

Pastor Mark: Last question. You want to read this one?

Mrs. Driscoll: People say I'm too young to get married. I'm 20. My boyfriend is 25 and we both feel ready. Opinions.

Pastor Mark: I'm going to bring up our son. All right. You scoot over. Here's what we're going to do. This is where you're really glad you're not one of our kids. I'll give you guys mommy's mic. So introduce yourself.

Zach: I'm Zach. I'm the eldest son of the Driscoll family.

Pastor Mark: And how old are you buddy?

Zach: I'm 21.

Pastor Mark: 21 and...

Zach: Yeah.

Pastor Mark: You ready?

Chloe: Yeah, I'm Chloe and I'm his fiance.

Pastor Mark: How old are you sweetheart?

Chloe: I'm 20.

Pastor Mark: 20 and 21. How long have you guys known each other?

Zach: Since middle school. I was in eighth grade. You were in seventh grade when we met, so seven years.

Pastor Mark: Seven years. And how many days... Ask Chloe because I know Chloe knows the days.

Zach: Hey, I know too.

Pastor Mark: Hey, that's good.

Zach: I got this.

Pastor Mark: How many days until the wedding?

Zach: 23. Let's confirm.

Chloe: Yes, that is right.

Zach: Okay.

Pastor Mark: 23 days. And so you kids have known each other seven years, you're 21 and 20. This question, one of them is 25. One of you is 20. And they're saying we feel like it's time to get married. Some people disagree. What would your advice be as a man who is just basically three weeks away from marrying?

Zach: Yeah. Well, I would say the most important thing is when is God's timing, because you can feel ready, but where, first of all, I'd say, where are you at spiritually? We've both been Christians for a long time and we personally have prayer and Bible reading and we're consistent in that and we're not perfect, but we consider each other and consider the Lord and then praying, worshiping, talking together about what God's will is for your relationship and your marriage. That's a big deal. And then secondly, I would say a wise council. If all the pastors told us that we weren't ready to get married and that we had problems that we had to work out before we were engaged or married, then we would take that seriously.

Pastor Mark: Talk about Bible reading, prayer, keeping the emotional spiritual at the center, practically, what does that look like for you guys as an example for young couples?

Zach: Yeah. So what was it, a year and a half ago probably, we started reading the Bible regularly together and we've read through the whole New Testament. We're finishing it up and it's changed our hunger for the Bible personally. I know that I wake up and I want to read the Bible and that's not regular for most people and you've pushed me to be a better man and have a better faith because of that and leading into marriage, I think we'll have more time together. No secret there.

Pastor Mark: If you do it right, yes.

Zach: Yeah. Yeah. So having more time together to pray and read the Bible, I think will be helpful for our relationship. And praying together, it opens you up. I don't know if you want me to share this, but it opens you up to talk to me-

Pastor Mark: Sorry Chloe. It's genetic.

Zach: [crosstalk 00:03:25] It's too late now. I wonder where I got that from. I wonder. Yeah, but Chloe opens you up to talk to me about things throughout the day that you probably wouldn't mention. And so you get more insight and it brings God into the conversation instead of just me.

Pastor Mark: Chloe, any advice for young men that want to court, marry, pursue a woman that would be helpful for the guys to just sort of spiritually, emotionally be safe for her?

Chloe: Well, I think that the way you did it was really respectful. You went to my dad and you were in eighth grade, so that would be very intimidating. So just being respectful through the process and you really brought God into the equation. If

there wasn't, we wouldn't be where we are today. And so that is a really big part, having God in the center of it and talking to me about reading my Bible and praying with me, because if we're not growing closer to God, then there's so much room for sin and the enemy. So I think that's really an important part.

Pastor Mark: Yeah. You guys think there's a difference between age and maturity?

Chloe: Yes.

Zach: Yeah. There's a big difference. We talked about this last week that we're blessed because of people around us and with God in our life to be in a life stage that a lot of people aren't in. And I see some people who are 30, 40 years old, who don't have the experience and maturity that we've been blessed with. And then we see people who are our age and we're like, "Wow, we can learn from them." And God is using them to teach us and lead us and age is important, but it's not the end all be all. You can be 30 and immature or you can be 20 and Godly.

Pastor Mark: I think that's the problem in our culture. We look at age and maturity is harder to gauge than age. And so in that setting of time you're not ready to get married until you're this age. Again, maturity is very different than age. And do you think that if it's a couple that does love the Lord will not be living and sleeping together, probably going to get married younger as a general rule?

Zach: Mm-hmm (affirmative). Yeah, definitely. It makes sense. Because yeah, I'm not trying to wait 10 more years. Just going to be honest. And I've made that very clear to Chloe.

Pastor Mark: Yeah. Well do you guys want to hold hands, practice some non-sexual touch and close our time-

Zach: [crosstalk 00:06:01] we've had seven years, so we're pretty good at it.

Pastor Mark: You've gone seven years and pretty good at it. Sorry Chloe. Son, I am proud of you. I love you. You are a great man and I am very honored to be your dad. We're honored to be your parents.

Zach: Love you guys.

Well, Lord, we thank you for this time. I'll be the first to say, I don't know much about marriage, but we are sure thankful that you've given us the awesome tool of marriage and that it's better to be together. It's better to be in your will, Lord, and follow your plan for our lives and our marriages. I pray for every marriage in this room that they would all leave tonight with something to take away, to build and work on their marriage and to ultimately grow closer to you, Lord, and closer to each other. And yeah, just thank you for my mom and dad who are just amazing parents, but also great leaders of this church and just of the Valley and the world beyond that. Thank you that you've blessed their ministry because they stayed faithful to each other and have loved you, Lord, first and each other

second. I pray that we take that as an example and go out of here tonight closer together and closer to you Lord, in Jesus's name, we pray. Amen.

Audience: Amen.

Pastor Mark: Thank you son. Love you guys. Thank you.