



HOW FAR IS TO FAR?!

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all right Q&A time all right I've got an ice breaker for us I'm your daughter by the way I'm Ashley yeah my kids love talking about marriage and sex in public with their parents so thank you guys person I go to they pay us good money to be here I'm just kidding I'm not getting paid um all right I got an icebreaker question for you guys though to get to know you a little bit I'd love to hear the story of your worst date in your almost 36 years together which is impressive by the way oh boy I know I didn't prepare you so our first date he is on the spot he's speechless do you see this everyone our first date was our worst date so um so we got out of the car at a 1956 Chevy and um we were walking away from the car we're going to we in high school we're in high school so we're going to Red Robin you know cuz bougie and uh and so I we're walking and your mom said hey I need to go back and get my purse she left her purse in the car and I was like what do you need your purse for she said so I can buy dinner rookie mistake I was like no we're not going to do that that's not what's gonna happen I didn't want to be tied to anything for yeah I was like how obligated can you be for bottomless fries you know like um you know and so she uh started fighting with me she's little but aggressive you started arguing with me no that's not what happened that's for sure not what happened I I'm having a hard time envisioning take brief pause so so okay you could tell the story then since I have it wrong so what did you do next so I went to grab your keys and they fell down a sewer grate downtown and it was the only set of keys that you had for that vehicle so then she's she's chuckling and she's smiling she goes all cute on me she's like now you're like okay it's first date now we just got out of the car and so then I was like okay how do we get the keys out of the sewer grate in the downtown probably down there with the Ninja Turtles I'm like how do we get the keys out so then we go to a we're looking uh for a magnet and a flashlight and a string so that I could fish my keys they're aluminum I kid you not they're aluminum perfect so they won't come up so then I call my dad who's a construction worker he comes down from a pay phone cuz we didn't from a pay phone yeah this was yeah back in the 1400s and then uh then my dad came with all of his tools and we took the manhole cover the grade off the sewer uh my dad went down and got the keys and that was the first hour of our first date I'm surprised you kept going after should have known not to marry me yeah that's funny thank you for sharing all right um we got some questions from the audience ooh my wife touches me inappropriately without consent what can I do asking for a friend okay uh two things thank God and ask her to start a YouTube channel where she disciples others to do likewise that would be my strong encouragement this is the weirdest question I've been doing this a long time this is one of the weirdest questions I've ever dude's like I I have a I have a brain you know like it's weird maybe it's PDA maybe it's you know grabbing him in public EXC I don't know there's no excuse praise God I have no idea why we're upset like oh she just keeps touching me like prayer answered all right next question should I marry someone I'm not physically attracted to even though they are very Godly this feels like the reverse of the previous question totally agree yeah maybe this is the other person this is the wife of the guy Ashley had a hard time marrying me so maybe she can answer this one oh my gosh that's not true no I that's cuz she wanted to be a nut yeah I did that's that's a story for a different day but no I just I don't know I always felt like physical attraction wasn't the main thing you were supposed to look for cuz people I just fall into lust like how do you know if you're really in love with someone or if God's really like put you with them if you just think that they're attractive and that's the first thing that draws you to them like I don't know for me it was like I wanted to trust his character and trust that he was going to like you know be a strong man and Lead Me and have an identity in the Lord and read his Bible and pray with me and that kind of stuff and so like the physical was just the last thing I was concerned I didn't think you were ugly obviously you're you're

beautiful um handsome handsome there are zero men that put beautiful on their LinkedIn page no no it just wasn't the first thing cuz I felt like you know there's so many other important things that make a healthy marriage other than the physical attraction and it comes the more you get to know each other and the more you connect like even spiritually like the more you're attracted to each other and I you know I would hope that you would still love me if you know all my hair fell out or I you know turned blue or something I don't know feels loaded this turned into a bizarre Smurf episode very quickly um what so what do you want to say and then and then I'll I'll say something why did I have to answer that um I think there needs to be attraction I mean sometimes it's like maybe they just need to get a haircut or yeah girls clothes or something girls can help guys become more attractive exactly exactly I mean I had to change your whole wardrobe okay now wait a minute wait you were well eared past the 80 we're talking about the 80s no now this is getting personal shots fired okay two things number one it was the 80s and so nobody knew what they were doing and number two I didn't have the Holy Spirit I didn't know the Lord so I was I was a victim of the 80s I've seen like one photo of you guys when you were dating and you were wearing light blue pants so like I said I'm grateful for Mom and boat shoes and boat shoes wa how did this turn into me how I'm here to minister to others and I all of a sudden got a Comedy Central roast say okay now what I will say now is I dress myself you do and you do amazing you do great yeah I'm not wearing baby blue and parachute pants I don't like this question at all I'm just saying sometimes there's some simple things that can be done to make you more attracted to the person physically but you do need to not be like repulsed by the person but that shouldn't be your first thing is I have to be sexually attracted to this person all the time cuz you're going to wake up and even though you were right sure so so what I would say hey I'm skin back at you so um this is the real romance event not the pretend romance event what I so this is what I told our kids you need to be attracted to the whole person mentally can you have a conversation with them that you enjoy spiritually do they love the Lord are you going to worship and pray together um emotionally do you enjoy their friendship and yes physically are you attracted to them and it's not the main thing but you you want to be attracted to the whole person drawn toward the whole person and some things may start first and other things may come later in so far as the attraction goes but at the end of the day I think it's very unfair to marry someone if there's a part of them that you just don't have any interest in cuz at some point that's going to just feel like rejection and even if it's mentally like I think they're nice but I don't want to talk to them because I don't think they're bright you're like well you know 50 years of that is going to be complicated next question I feel like we should yeah we're in a we're sing a hole of the plane up all right our parents struggle to respect our boundaries what should we do this is very vague yeah you guys didn't ask this did you do you want to give more context I don't know I mean I feel like maybe with like time spent together like maybe they're expecting a lot of like enmeshment as you've discussed in the past with um I don't know family gatherings and stuff I don't know communication I don't know I don't know what people struggle with I have great parents so you know well thank you um so but so when as a couple do you have the right to set your own boundaries like you can't call after this time you can't show up to our house without you know letting us know or being invited holidays vacations we're going to decide every year kind of what we want to do I'll just ask you guys this as a as a young married couple do you have the right to make those decisions for your family yeah and I I would add that it doesn't need to be an unhealthy situation to have those conversations even with healthy parents you should be having these conversations because it's it's awkward for both like we're we were the first uh she she was your first child to get married so you'd never done this before so we had to figure it out and open

communication solves a lot of the stuff cuz otherwise it's just like we're both trying to guess what each other want and need and what's appropriate what's too much and what's too little well and seasons change too so like you guys got a beautiful baby boy and so maybe you know things that you had for you know margin in your life now you don't or maybe Christmas Comes you're like we want to go do our own memories with our own family and our own son and our own Traditions it's like well as parents we need to honor that and we need to respect that and what I would say is as you know kind of the the parents um you don't need to agree you need to honor and so I don't need to agree and I usually do agree you guys make great decisions and I'm very proud of you and I love you but even if I don't agree it's your decision and I need to honor that and so um but I think the more that um the the parents take the position of open-handed like we're available if you want to join us for dinner if you want to come over for the holidays if you got want whatever we're available but then don't get offended if that opportunity is not taken advantage of it's just like and what I would say is old you know as the parents is provide a lot of open-handed opportunities and let the children who are now older and differentiated and married let them say yes when they want to say yes and don't get offended when they say no but if they make a boundary you have to honor that because at the end of the day if you don't you're harming and damaging their marriage and sometimes as older parents it's like well why and that's none of our business there may be some things going on in your life or your marriage that you don't want us to know and it's not for us to know if you want us to know you can tell us if not we need to pray for you and love you and support you and honor those boundaries but we don't have a right to override those decisions that that the that the new family makes yeah and I think like from the kids perspective it's a really hard conversation to have but it's a lot better to have it than to just let resentment and bitterness build and like especially now having a baby like I don't want there to be any tension where like he feels like he's in the middle and like we're annoyed cuz you guys are doing something we're not talking to you about it or vice versa and like it just needs to all be like out in the open as much as possible and if one side can't commit to honor the other like then you have a conversation about okay maybe we need to take a break or step back or whatever maybe we're not going to be as close as we thought we were but just the expectations having them clear and out and like sometimes you're wrong but just saying it out loud you're like oh yeah that's not reasonable like just talking about it helps so so on that honey I'd ask you the last question so if there's a conversation to be had with extended family you know Mom and dad who should have the conversation from The Young couple's perspective who should initiate that conversation If the parents aren't honoring the boundaries the person that it's their parents so if she needs to talk to us as her parents he needs to talk to his parents if there's an issue or a boundary thing for any of us you need to talk to your own parents not Landon talking to us or Ashley talking to his parents because she knows us we know her we need to honor her and their marriage and their family but she knows how to talk to us about that and we can you know go back and forth and figure out what a solution is or just honor what she's asking if we don't agree that's good all right next one advice slth thoughts to believers who don't want slash aren't sure if they want children this is a very uncertain person with their slashes can't even make up their mind about the words they want to use so what would you say babe couple Christians get gets married and decides not sure we want to have kids would you have married me if I said hey I don't want to have kids no okay that's nice to know um I'll be honest if I if I you know before we got married we did talk about these things if you said I just don't want to have kids I would have said I love you but I'm not going to marry you because I I I want to be a husband but I also have always wanted to be a father and really look forward to being a dad and so yeah for me this

would have been a deal breaker for the marriage I would ask the deeper question to this question why why don't you want to have kids um there's this the Millennials are the ones that don't tend to want to have kids right now and probably because they had broken homes or they don't have any instruction in what to do with kids so they're afraid to try and raise them and not have any support there's probably fears or you know apprehensions that are based on their own upbringing and that's not a reason to not have kids if you're in a church community and you are a Believer and you believe that children are a blessing then you need to enter into that conversation with wise counsel and and figure out if there's a fear because we don't want to live out of fear um as to why you don't want to have kids I mean there are some people that I'm I'm thankful that they don't have kids generally it's non-believers um because they wouldn't be the best parents but kids are we're never ready for kids and so um we talked about this yesterday a little bit but we're not financially ready we're not physically ready we're not emotionally ready it's God gives you that ability when you have kids because you don't need it until then and so there's people that go into parenting thinking oh I know exactly what I'm going to do with my kids and they don't none of us do you know we can prepare all we want but kids are all different and and so we want we need to ask the question of our heart in that question I think um and just figure out what's behind it yeah I think that's super helpful we Mentor a lot of the young people here and it feels like uh specifically with gals um that there's a defense mechanism of I don't want to have kids and it's like their way of saying I don't want to get married and you had a little bit of that when we were dating because I think God had to change your heart on a lot of uh different things very quickly cuz you weren't sure you wanted to get married and um so God did a big work for you yeah I just believed a lot of the lies that you have to sacrifice one or the other like you can have a career and feel fulfilled and like discover who you are or you can get married and settle down and be boring so I think for guys going on dates with gals and their first thing is I don't want to have kids it's a conversation where you can start leading and start asking those questions to Grace's point of like what's under that like why why don't you want to have kids cuz you're really great in kids ministry or like you seem to love kids like that was with you with your siblings you loved your siblings I was like you for sure want to have kids but if it's a selfish reason yeah it's generally pretty easy to get to the bottom of it or if there's hurt that needs to be healed there can be some of that if your childhood was just really rough and you're really afraid of replicating that like I've had friends that have struggled with that but like God gives you Grace to raise your kids the way that he wants you to and he gives them to you on purpose like now having a baby I feel like he's exactly the baby that God created for our family obviously um and it's pretty cool to to realize that and like realize how selfish we were and how much we had to learn go well within that too some things that the there there's this trend of young women online I don't want kids I don't want to be a mother I don't feel like it but then uh biologically as soon as a woman gets pregnant it reh hardwires her body and her brain neurologically and she gets very attached to and protective of and devoted to this child and then when the child is born literally something awakens in the woman that was dormant and she never felt that so honey maybe now that you're a new mom with a beautiful baby boy I mean we've gotten a front row seat to see this attachment between you and your son and it's really beautiful yeah I mean you can research and read all you want you have no idea what you're doing when that thing comes out like you have you have no clue like you go home and you're like oh it's just here now like I will never be alone again you know so it's climb into bed after a long day yesterday and then you're just like looking at pictures and like I miss him he's like 4 feet away in the other room sleeping I'm like I just want him to be in here yeah it's pretty crazy like I definitely didn't know you don't know how much is going to

change and how much you're going to love them and just like I I joke that I'm like the Grinch like my heart grew a bunch of sizes because I like didn't know I had this capacity to love this child so much and I go through all this pain and come home and I'm like let's do it again you know and he's not sleeping I'm like oh he's so cute I want another one you know so God like yeah God makes women to take care of kids and obviously we struggled with infertility for a couple years too like there's no shame in that either but I think we reached a point in our marriage we were married for four years before we had our son and we reached a point where we're like we need to have something else going on like we're just living for ourselves right now like we're missing the next phase of like growing in sanctification and serving someone else and having a legacy and like all the great things that the Bible talks about with building a family like there's so much wrapped up in that that you just don't know till you have it and you're you're cheating yourself if you're not even letting that be an option in your mind in my opinion so well how about we do one more cool all right how do you encourage your spouse to dump their unhealthy friendships well post it on Facebook I mean you know sure um I'll let Grace answer this one she's the relational expert at our house um I mean don't go in negative would be my recommendation always don't be like I hate that friend of yours why don't you just get rid of them but just start to ask questions questions is always a great way to start a conversation um nonjudging Al questions but um you know I know that you've been spending a lot of time with that person um is there something that we can do to spend more time together are you jealous of you know are you jealous of that relationship first of all you got to figure that out with the Lord before you go into that conversation um we had this a little bit in the beginning of our marriage because I hung out with a group of friends from my past that I was trying to minister to them um and it was taking time quarterly out of our schedule that you know for a season it was okay but once we got involved in Ministry and started having kids it just wasn't um a necessary thing for me to do but I had a really hard time releasing it because I felt this obligation to minister to these people and none of only a couple of them were Believers and so um we had that conversation and you're like why do you keep doing this it's like this stress cuz then we got to figure out all the kids stuff when you go you're gone for like 3 or 4 hours and like I don't I don't know maybe I don't need to be doing I had to re-evaluate in the season that I was in like okay nothing has changed over six years or whatever it was I'm just going to entrust them to the Lord and I'm not going to drop them you know really rudely or anything but I'm just going to say I'm in a new season of life and this is just it's hard so I'm I'm going to have to bow out of these um quarterly things and so we had a lot of conversations about it and we need to especially if it's someone in your um life that you don't trust with your spouse um I don't know that we've had that necessar well one thing that we have is we kind of have a line item beo and I I'll close to this so Grace doesn't have any close female friends that I don't approve of I don't have any close male friends that she doesn't approve of because any relationship is secondary to our marriage and if Grace is like I don't feel good about that then I need to trust that the holy spirit is in her she's got discernment and you know she's safeguarding our marriage and vice versa so I wouldn't have close friends or you know private conversations with any man unless she was like I like him I respect him I trust him because it's about not just the relationship but safeguarding the marriage and so there are certain people that Grace is like I don't feel good about you talking to him and I'm like I don't feel good about you talking to her and we just try to mutually submit to that and so like there's a line that kind of refers to this in Ephesians 5:21 says submit to one another out of reverence for Christ and it means for the sake of the marriage sort of deferring to your spouse and giving them that Authority and as long as we because if there's somebody if Grace is like

hey there's somebody I don't really trust and I'm like well I'm willing to choose them over you now we've got a real problem in our marriage because now all of a sudden that I'm more loyal to that person than I am to my spouse I think one thing that's really helped us is having a vision for our marriage and it solves a lot of these questions is uh maybe talk about Jimmy Evans Vision Retreat yeah so Pastor Evans he'll be here to teach in a couple weeks and I love Pastor Jimmy and you can find all his stuff at exom marriage uh he's one of our pastors and overseers here but uh he's got a vision Retreat that is a series of videos and a workbook and it's for a couple to get together take some time fast pray and then do the homework individually and then come together and to say okay well what is our vision for our marriage what's our vision for our family and what's our vision for the year and uh and what Vision does it prevents Division and Vision literally means two visions so if the husband and the wife have two visions you've got division so you got to come to the point where you're like we have one shared vision and once you get that shared Vision now you're confident that that's God's will for your family and for your marriage and for your for year so then it makes many of those decisions as opposed to making a decision every day without some sort of big architecting um plan for your life and so I know you guys do it every year I think I think the married are our married kids all do it uh we do it as well and we recommend it for people um because once you agree on the big things it tends to solve all the little things yeah exactly that's great let's give it up for pastor Martin and Grace all right we've got the giveaway the giveaway of this sign copy and the \$250 date night gift card and the winner is Olivia rotar give it up for Olivia Olivia come on down somewhere where are you at Olivia she left early did she leave she left early she oh hi right there and why we do that uh just a reminder for you guys we do not have midweek this week because real men and real women go on Valentine's dinners together they don't go to church this week but typically you do um so that's awesome we'll be back in judges this next week with Pastor Mark it's going to be awesome it's going to be really awesome yeah we're getting into Gideon so it'll be fun us out thanks for joining us everybody Happy Valentine's Day uh dear heavenly father just thank you for this day thank you for this incredible church thank you for Mark and Grace and them sharing their wisdom with us just pray a blessing over everyone in this room whether they're married single or uh dating Lord that they would just um Lord that they would take this message to heart and apply it this week and be a healthier family uh be a healthier Christian and then ultimately just yeah healthy Christians and and a healthy church we just pray this all in your name amen amen thanks everybody