

*first comes love*



Sermon Series

February 4th to 25th

Pastors Taylor & Kristen Wilkerson | Trinity New York | February 2024

## Improving Your Game

**Hebrews 12:1-3** — Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, <sup>2</sup> fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. <sup>3</sup> Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

## WHAT? *What is dating?*

**Dating is not a destination. It's a process for evaluation.**

**Proverbs 25:24** (NASB) — “It is better to live in a corner of the roof than in a house shared with a contentious woman.”

**Proverbs 25:28** (NASB) — “A man without self-control is like a city broken into and left without walls.”

**Proverbs 12:26** (NIV) — “The righteous choose their friends carefully, but the way of the wicked leads them astray.”

## WHO? *Who should you date?*

### 1. Same Team

**1 Corinthians 9:24** (NIV) — Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize.

**2 Corinthians 6:14** (NLT) — **Don't team up with those who are unbelievers.** How can righteousness be a partner with wickedness? How can light live with darkness?

### 2. Character

### 3. Chemistry

**1 Corinthians 7:9** — It is better to marry than to burn with passion.

## HOW? *How to date?*

### 1) PRAYERFULLY — Prayer reminds us that God is in control, not us

**Romans 8:28** (NASB) — “We know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.”

### 2) CLARITY — Vision for the future

**Proverbs 29:18** (NKJV) — “Where there is no vision, the people perish.”

**1 Corinthians 14:33** — “God is not a God of confusion but of peace.”

### 3) AUTONOMY — Dating is not a status it's a process

### 4) PURITY — Sex distorts the evaluation process

### 5) GRACIOUSLY — Your aim should be to bless, not simply to impress

### 6) COMMUNITY — Trust others in the evaluating process

**Proverbs 11:14** — “Where there is no guidance, a people falls, but in an abundance of counselors there is safety.”

### 7) PATIENTLY — wait long enough to see their true character