

FROM THE CREATORS OF FACING THE GIANTS

FIREPROOF

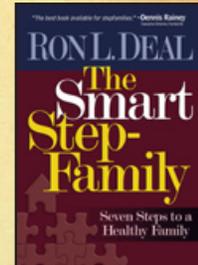
BLENDED FAMILY SUPPORT & HELP

by Ron L. Deal

Family life is full of challenges and rewards. Stepfamily life is the same.

Approximately 30% of all weddings in the US today form stepfamilies (around two-thirds of them will end in divorce). Whether preceded by death or divorce, these steps will help your family succeed:

- 1. STEP Up** to discover a God who loves and forgives those in stepfamilies. Just like imperfect Biblical families, stepfamilies don't have to live in fear that their spiritual past will forever haunt them, for God's grace is always available to restore hope.
- 2. STEP Down** your expectations of how quickly your stepfamily will integrate. The average stepfamily needs around seven years to really form a family identity.
- 3. Two STEP.** The marriage relationship is by far the most important earthly relationship in the stepfamily home, yet it is often the weakest. Make sure your marriage doesn't get lost in the blenders swirl.
- 4. STEP in Line** as a parental team. Stepparents must focus on relationship building with stepchildren and ex-spouses should learn between home cooperation.
- 5. Side STEP** common pitfalls. Children need for their grief to be acknowledged and traditions celebrating holidays and special days should be maintained when appropriate while the new stepfamily creates some of their own unique traditions.
- 6. STEP Through** the wilderness with trust and determination. Remain dedicated to gradually forming a family identity over time. And remember, there is a honeymoon for stepcouples, it just comes at the end of the journey, not at the beginning!"



"The best book available for stepfamilies." - Dennis Rainey



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Ron L. Deal is Founder and President of Successful Stepfamilies, an education and consulting ministry that empowers stepfamilies toward healthy living and equips churches to minister to the unique needs of stepfamilies. Ron is author of the book *The Smart Stepfamily: Seven Steps to a Healthy Family* and co-author with Dr. David Olson of *The Remarriage Couple Checkup* (in press, 2009) based on the largest study of remarriage ever conducted. He presents his practical and humorous Building A Successful Stepfamily conference in churches throughout the country and has appeared on numerous national radio and TV programs. Ron is a licensed marriage and family therapist and licensed professional counselor.

Visit www.SuccessfulStepfamilies.com for resources, conference information, phone coaching, marriage intensives, and FREE online articles. Sign up for Ron's FREE E-Magazine!



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