



# ***7 STEPS*** **To Stepfamily Success**

Presented by:

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[www.SuccessfulStepfamilies.com](http://www.SuccessfulStepfamilies.com)

## 7 STEPS To Stepfamily Success

Children are Definitely Part of the Package!

A Stepfamily by any other Name:

- The stepfamily is a different kind of family with special \_\_\_\_\_ and opportunities; special \_\_\_\_\_ and stresses. Changing the name helps little; learning how it works is what will make the difference<sup>1</sup>.

### 7 STEPS To Stepfamily Success:

1. STEP \_\_\_\_\_ - to discover a \_\_\_\_\_ God who loves, forgives, and provides strength and direction for your journey.
  - Satan's best line of attack...
  - In God's eyes:
  - Spiritually marginalized stepfamilies:
    - Social \_\_\_\_\_ and isolation.
    - Well-intentioned \_\_\_\_\_ leaders.
    - Personal \_\_\_\_\_ and guilt over the past.
2. STEP \_\_\_\_\_ - your expectations.
  - The myth of instant love.

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<sup>1</sup> E. Einstein & L. Albert (1986), *Strengthening Your Stepfamily*, Circle Pines, MN: American Guidance Service, Inc.

- How do you cook a stepfamily? \_\_\_\_\_
- The average stepfamily takes \_\_\_\_\_ years to integrate.

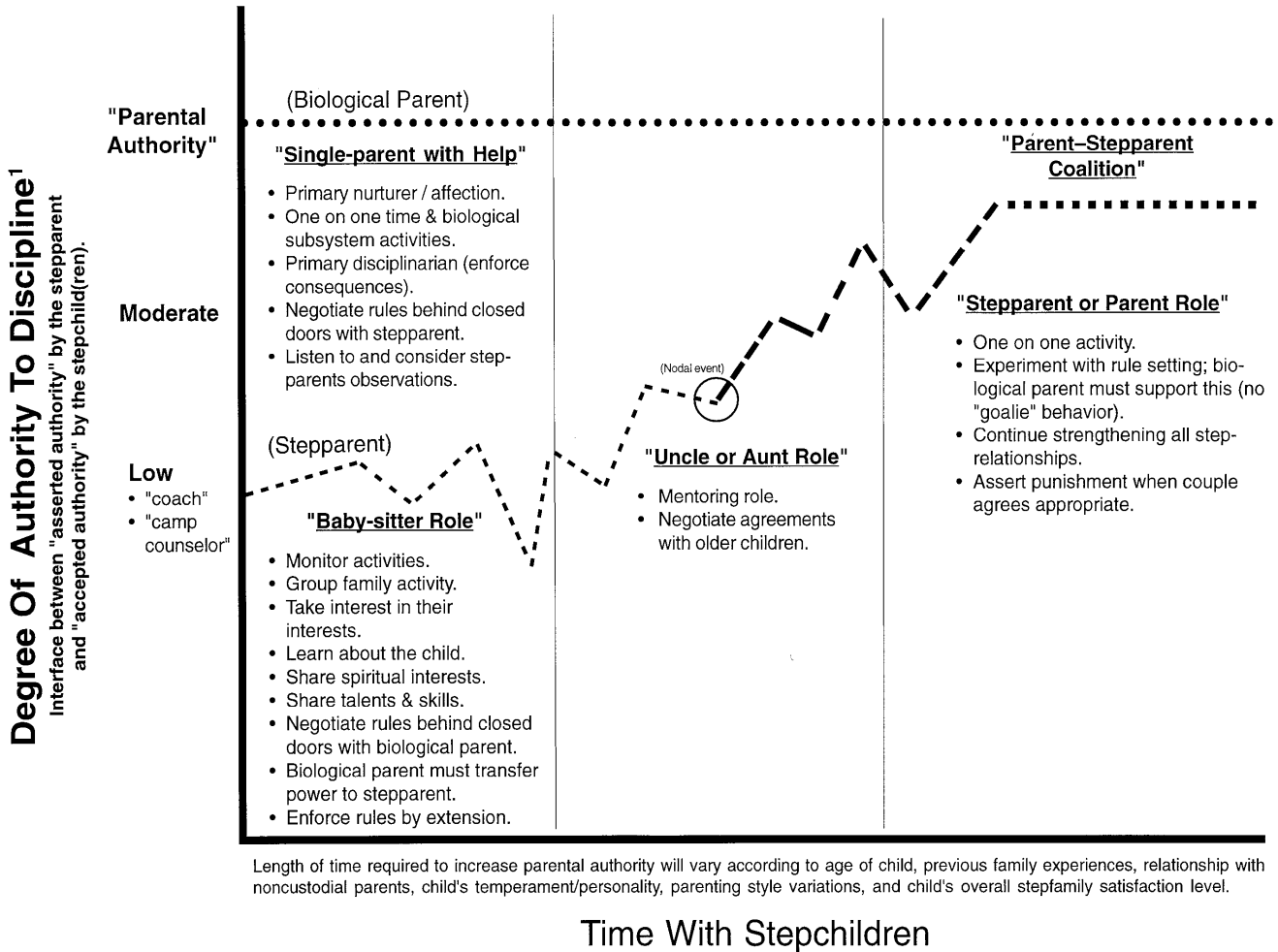
3. STEP \_\_\_\_\_ - the wilderness wanderings.

- Wilderness Wanderings:
- Key Stepping Stones:
  - Listening—because until your willing to \_\_\_\_\_ one another, you won't know how to love and honor one another.
  - Perseverance—because only those who \_\_\_\_\_ with it will be victorious. Be determined!
  - Commitment—because there will be times when \_\_\_\_\_ is all you have to hold on to.
  - Humor—because if you haven't learned to \_\_\_\_\_ at yourself, you're taking things too seriously!

4. \_\_\_\_\_ STEP - the most common pitfalls stepfamilies face.

- A stepparent who has too much \_\_\_\_\_ care-taking and discipline.
  - Authority is based on relationship.
  - A Prescription for Evolving Parent and Stepparent Roles

# A Prescription for Evolving Parent & Stepparent Roles



<sup>1</sup> Susan Gamache, "Parental Status: A New Construct Describing Adolescent Perceptions of Stepfathers." (Ph.D. diss., University of British Columbia, 2000).

Pitfalls continued...

- Underestimating the losses children experience.
  
- Adults who out of insecurity, pull on children's loyalties.
  
- A fragile marital relationship.

5. \_\_\_\_\_ STEP - the marital relationship is critical.

- Before marriage...
  
- After marriage...
  - The challenge of bonding and parent-child relationships.
  
  - The marriage must be "Priority One",
  
  - Balance energy and time with the children.

6. STEP \_\_\_\_\_ - with all the other adults making up the parenting coalition.
- Cooperating with the other household is essential to the psychological health of the children.
  - Children are Dual Citizens.
  - Co-Parenting: Containing the anger and conflict with your ex-spouse in order to cooperate and compromise on issues of the children's welfare.
  - If spiritual values differ:
7. STEP \_\_\_\_\_ into the 'Promised Land'.

# Recommended Resources for Christian Stepfamilies & Stepfamily Ministries

Compiled by Ron L. Deal, President, Successful Stepfamilies

[www.SuccessfulStepfamilies.com](http://www.SuccessfulStepfamilies.com)

## National Ministry Organizations:

**InStep Ministries:** [www.instepministries.com](http://www.instepministries.com) InStep Ministries is a non-profit organization dedicated to serving the community by providing practical, Biblical resources, support and counsel to single, divorced and remarried individuals, their families and the churches who minister to them.

Jeff Parziale & Judi Babcock-Parziale, Directors; 2506 N. Alvernon

Tucson, Arizona 85712. Phone: (520)721-0800; Email: [info@instepministries.com](mailto:info@instepministries.com)

**Institute for Family Research and Education:** [www.ifre.org](http://www.ifre.org)

Dr. Donald Partridge and Jenetha Partridge, Directors;

Email: [don\\_partridge@blendingfamily.com](mailto:don_partridge@blendingfamily.com)

**Mend Workshops:** [www.mendworkshops.com](http://www.mendworkshops.com) MEND Workshops is an outreach to stepfamilies, single parents and couples struggling to make their home a sanctuary. Offering consultations, workshops, support groups, retreats, couple's weekends, curriculum, and hands-on training, MEND's heart is to reach into our society and offer support for those who are hurting.

Dottie and Terrill Williams, Directors.

Phone: 888-872-1293

**Successful Stepfamilies:** [www.SuccessfulStepfamilies.com](http://www.SuccessfulStepfamilies.com)

This site provides resources for pre-remarital couples, stepfamilies, and the churches who serve them. Site includes free articles as well as books, curriculum, audio/video resources, and information on live conferences around the country.

Ron L. Deal, President; 1601 James Street; Jonesboro, AR 72401. Phone: 870-932-9254;

Email: [rdeal@swfamily.org](mailto:rdeal@swfamily.org).

## Christian Stepfamily Web Sites:

**Christian CoParenting:** [www.christiancoparenting.com](http://www.christiancoparenting.com)

**InStep Ministries:** [www.instepministries.com](http://www.instepministries.com)

**Institute for Family Research and Education:** [www.ifre.org](http://www.ifre.org)

**KidsNCommon:** [www.kidsncommon.com](http://www.kidsncommon.com) (a website for divorced parents who want to more effectively organize their lives so they can focus on their children)

**Mend Workshops:** [www.mendworkshops.com](http://www.mendworkshops.com)

**Natalie Nichols Gillespie:** [www.stepfamilyurvivalguide.com](http://www.stepfamilyurvivalguide.com)

**Stepfamily Services:** [www.stepfamilyservices.com](http://www.stepfamilyservices.com)

**Stepfamilies Work:** [www.stepfamilieswork.com](http://www.stepfamilieswork.com)

**Successful Stepfamilies:** [www.SuccessfulStepfamilies.com](http://www.SuccessfulStepfamilies.com) Christian resources and conferences for pre-remarital couples, stepfamilies, and the churches who serve them. Author and stepfamily expert Ron L. Deal, President.

**Two Again Ministries:** [www.remarriedcouples.com](http://www.remarriedcouples.com)

### **Other Helpful Web Sites:**

**Association of Marriage & Family Ministries:** [www.amfmonline.com](http://www.amfmonline.com) (Stepfamily Focus Group)

**Family Medallion:** [www.familymedallion.com](http://www.familymedallion.com) (a gift to share with children during remarriage wedding ceremonies)

**FamilyLife:** [www.familylife.com](http://www.familylife.com)

**Focus on the Family:** [www.family.org](http://www.family.org)

**Getting Remarried:** [www.gettingremarried.com](http://www.gettingremarried.com)

**GrowthTrac:** [www.growthtrac.com](http://www.growthtrac.com)

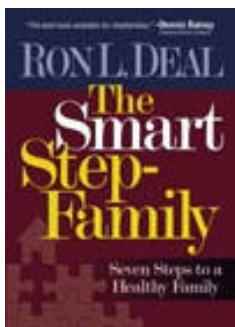
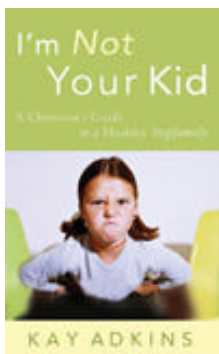
**Opportunities Unlimited:** [www.cggtaylor.com](http://www.cggtaylor.com)

**Stepfamily Association of America:** [www.saafamilies.org](http://www.saafamilies.org); phone: 800-735-0329

**Stepfamily Services:** [www.stepfamilyservices.com](http://www.stepfamilyservices.com)

**Your Stepfamily Online Magazine:** [www.yourstepfamily.com](http://www.yourstepfamily.com)

\*\* [Other links available here.](#)



### **Books for Christian Stepfamilies & Couples Considering Remarriage:**

NOTE: An \*\* indicates highly recommended resources.

\*\* Adkins, Kay, (2004). *I'm Not Your Kid: A Christian's Guide to a Healthy Stepfamily*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books.

Barnes, Bob. *Winning the Heart of Your Stepchild*. Zondervan Publishing, 1992.

Becnel, Moe & Paige, (2000). *God Breathes On Blended Families: A Testimony of the Becnel Family*. Baton Rouge, LA: Healing Place Productions, Inc.

\*\* Broersma, Margaret, (2003). *Daily Reflections for Stepparents: Living and Loving in a New Family*. Grand Rapids, MI: Kregal Publications.

Broersma, Margaret, (2004). *Stepparent to Stepparent: Answers to 50 Common Questions Stepparents Ask*. Grand Rapids, MI: Kregal Publications.

\*\* Deal, Ron. *The Smart Stepfamily: Seven Steps to a Healthy Home*. Bethany House Publishers (2002). Contains a discussion guide for stepfamily groups and questions for pre-remarital couples.



Douglas, Edward & Sharon. *The Blended Family: Achieving Peace & Harmony in the Christian Home*. Franklin, TN: Providence House Publishers, 2000.

\*\* Gillespie, Natalie Nichols, (2004). *The Stepfamily Survival Guide*. Grand Rapids, MI: Revell.

\*\* Goodman, Karon Phillips (2002). *The Stepmom's Guide to Simplifying Your Life*. Culver City, CA: Equilibrium Press.

\*\* Goodman, Karon Phillips. (2004). *A Stepmom's Book of Prayer*. <http://KaronGoodman.com>

Kniskern, Joseph W. (2003). *Making a New Vow: A Christians Guide to Remarriage*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers.

Lauer, R.H. & Lauer, J.C. (1999). *Becoming Family: How to Build a Family That Really Works*. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress.

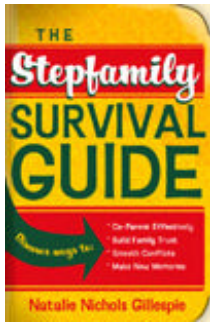
Parrott, Les & Leslie. (2001). *Saving Your Second Marriage Before It Starts*. Zondervan.

\*\* Partridge, Donald R. (2001). *Single Parents Savvy Partnering: Stage 1—Dating*. Pleasanton, CA: Ginger Court Press. Designed to help pre-remarital couples date intentionally and anticipate stepfamily issues.

\*\* Partridge, Donald R. (2001). *Single Parents Savvy Partnering: Stage 2—Engagement*. Pleasanton, CA: Ginger Court Press.

\*\* Partridge, Donald R. (2001). *Single Parents Savvy Partnering: Stage 3—Merging*. Pleasanton, CA: Ginger Court Press.

Smoke, Jim (2004). *7 Keys to a Blended Family*. Eugene, OR: Harvest House Pub.



## **Educational Curriculum, Videos, & Ministry Resources for Churches, Christian Stepfamilies & Couples Considering Remarriage:**

NOTE: An \*\* indicates highly recommended resources.

\*\* Adler-Baeder, Francesca. (2002). *Smart Steps for Parents and Children*. 6-week curriculum for stepfamily adults and their children. Includes two videos and a CD with Power Point and handout masters. A Christian supplement entitled "Growing in Wisdom" by Ron Deal is included. Order from [www.SuccessfulStepfamilies.com](http://www.SuccessfulStepfamilies.com)

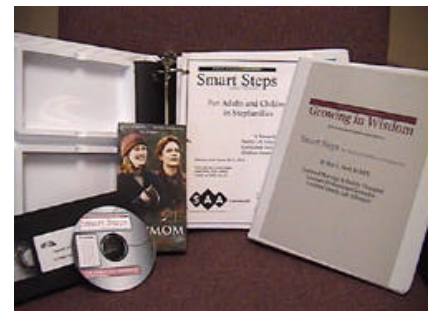
\*\* Deal, Ron (2004). *Blended Families: Helping Yours, Mine, and Ours Become a Family*. DVD produced by AACC; designed for stepfamily educators and counseling. Available at [www.SuccessfulStepfamilies.com](http://www.SuccessfulStepfamilies.com)

\*\* Deal, Ron. "*Building A Successful Stepfamily*" Audio Seminar & Workbook (6 CD's). Listen-in as Ron Deal presents his live national stepfamily conference.

\*\* Deal, Ron. "*7 STEPS To Stepfamily Success*" Video Seminar (75 minutes; available in DVD or VHS).

\*\* Deal, Ron. "Ministering to Stepfamilies: What Churches Must Do" Audio Seminar (3 CD's). Presented at the 2004 Association for Marriage & Family Ministry Conference.

\*\* Deal, Ron. "Preparing Couples With Children for Remarriage" Audio Seminar (1 CD). Presented at the 2004 Single Parent Family Ministry Conference.



- \*\* Dunn, Dick. *New Faces in the Frame: A Guide to Marriage and Parenting in the Blended Family*. Nashville: LifeWay Press, 1997. A 12-week workbook study for Bible classes. Call 1-800-458-2772 to order.
- Focus on the Family (2004). *The Blended Marriage*. Colorado Springs: Focus on the Family. A 4-session study based on their small group marriage series. The study provides good discussion questions but unfortunately does not provide the leader with any background study material to help answer the many questions that arise in stepfamily classes. Recommended for advanced stepfamily educators only.
- \*\* Parziale, Jeff (2004). *How to Start and Lead a Stepfamily Support Group*. Tucson, AZ: InStep Ministries. A self-published guide for ministry leaders.
- \*\* Parziale, Jeff & Judi (2002). *Looking Before You Leap...Again! Preparing Yourself for the Adventures and Challenges of Remarriage*. Tucson, AZ: InStep Ministries.
- Also, Jeff and Judi have a 10-session group study available based on *Looking Before You Leap*. It is called *Second Chances: Preparing for Remarriage in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*. A *Leader's Guide* and *Couple's Workbook* is available. Tucson, AZ: InStep Ministries.
- \*\* Parziale, Jeff & Judi (2002). *The Journey: A Traveling Guide for Christian Stepfamilies*. Tucson, AZ: Fenestra Books.
- Also, Jeff and Judi have a 10-session group study available based on *The Journey*. It is called *How to Succeed as a Stepfamily*. A *Leader's Guide* and *Couple's Workbook* is available. Tucson, AZ: InStep Ministries.
- Pratt, Lonni Collins. *Making Two Halves a Whole: Studies for Parents in Blended Families*. Elgin, Ill: David C. Cook Publishing Co., 1995. A 13-week Bible study curriculum for adult groups.
- \*\* Taylor, Carri & Gordon (2003). *Designing Dynamic Stepfamilies: Bringing the Pieces to Peace* (video series). Eight-part VHS or DVD series includes a study guide. "Ready-to-use" for workshops, conferences, and small groups. Order from [www.SuccessfulStepfamilies.com](http://www.SuccessfulStepfamilies.com)
- Townsend, Loren (2002) *Pastoral Care with Stepfamilies*. St. Louis, MO: Chalice Press.

### **Resources for Therapists and Family Life Educators:**

- Bray, James. *Stepfamilies: Love, Marriage, and Parenting in the First Decade*. New York: Broadway Books, 1998.
- Deal, Ron. Video: *Blended Families: Helping Yours, Mine, and Ours Become a Family*. Part of the AACC Caring for People God's Way series, Vol. 2, 2004.
- Emery, Robert E. *Renegotiating Family Relationships: Divorce, Child Custody, and Mediation*. New York: Guilford Press, 1994.
- Hetherington, E. M. & Kelly, J. (2002). *For Better or For Worse: Divorce Reconsidered*. W.W. Norton & Co., New York.
- Gamache, Susan. "Parental status: A new construct describing adolescent perceptions of stepfathers." Unpublished doctoral dissertation, University of British Columbia, 2000.
- Ganong, Lawrence H. & Coleman, Marilyn (2004). *Stepfamily Relationships: Development, Dynamics, and Interventions*. New York: Kluwer Academic/Plenum Publishers.
- Journal of Divorce & Remarriage*. The Haworth Press, Inc. 1-800-342-9678.
- Kelley, P. (1995). *Developing Healthy Stepfamilies: Twenty Families Tell Their Stories*. New York: Haworth Press Inc.
- Martin, Don & Martin, Maggie. *Stepfamilies in Therapy: Understanding Systems, Assessment & Intervention*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 1992.
- Papernow, Patricia. *Becoming a Stepfamily: Patterns of Development in Remarried Families*. Analytic Press, 1998.
- Visher, Emily & Visher, John. *Old Loyalties, New Ties: Therapeutic Strategies with Stepfamilies*. New York: Brunner/Mazel, 1988.

Visher, Emily B. & Visher, John S. *Therapy With Stepfamilies*. New York: Brunner/Mazel, 1996.