

FAMILY PORTRAITS: Blending Families
Andy Deane · 5/5/2024 · Selected Scriptures

Blended families (in Christ) are just as beautiful as nuclear families (in Christ)!

- Did you know that Jesus was raised by a stepfather who treated him like his own?
- Did you know that the church was created by God by blending Jews and Gentiles into a new family?
 - Ephesians 2:12-16, *12 remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world. 13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ. 14 For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, 15 by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace, 16 and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility.*
- The Scriptures are clear that the blood of Christ is even thicker than biology.
 - Matthew 12:49-50, *49 Pointing to his disciples, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers. 50 For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother."*
 - 1 Peter 2:9, *9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession...*

What ingredients & steps are there in a family recipe?

EMPATHY

- Empathy doesn't underestimate the loss experienced by divorce and death.
- Psalms 69:1-3; 20, *1 Save me, O God, for the waters have come up to my neck. 2 I sink in the miry depths, where there is no foothold. I have come into the deep waters; the floods engulf me. 3 I am worn out calling for help; my throat is parched. My eyes fail, looking for my God... 20 Scorn has broken my heart and has left me helpless; I looked for sympathy, but there was none, for comforters, but I found none.*
- Empathy understands that kids fear they are losing part of their bio parent when a stepparent enters the picture.
- Empathy is even toward calming the ex-spouse's fear of being replaced and erased by you.

LOVE

- Love respects other's preferences: Matthew 12:31, *"love your neighbor as yourself"*
- Stepparent should start with the least intrusive of the five love languages: acts of service, giving gifts, words of affirmation, and later build up to more intimate ones: quality time & physical touch.
- Love picks its battles: *love covers over a multitude of sins* (1 Peter 4:8)
- Love is unconditional: *love each other deeply* (1 Peter 4:8)

UNITY

- Unity starts with building your marriage up strong.
- Unity makes a plan for new house rules & discipline: Mark 3:25, *a house divided against itself...cannot stand.*
- Unity shows no favoritism: "You're hard on mine & easy on yours.": James 2:9, *if you show favoritism, you sin...*
- Unity even extends to your/their ex: The better ambassador you are to reduce conflict, the better for your kids.
- Romans 12:21, *...overcome evil with good.*

TIME

- Time is needed more than any other tactic:
- Despite the name, families aren't blended quickly with the blades of a blender.
- Instead choose a gentle and patient approach: *your gentleness made me great* (Psalms 18:35)
- Families meld together more like cooking with a crockpot: over time the ingredients warm up and soften more.
- It's been observed that the average blended family takes 5-7 years to feel that sense of "family".
- Galatians 6:9, *Let us not become weary in doing good...*
- Time gives hope: 62% said, "their relationship with their step child improved with time" (Laurie Short Interview)

Text "BLENDING" to (951)425-4425 to learn discover resources to help strengthen your blended family.