

Preparing to Blend

by Ron L. Deal Trade Paper ISBN: 978-0-7642-3793-5 \$15.99; 176 pp. Ebook ISBN: 978-1-4934-3355-1 Release Date: September 2021

"As you contemplate creating a blended family, reading and discussing *Preparing to Blend* is one of the best ways to prepare for success in creating the blended family that you envision."

—Gary Chapman, PhD, author of The 5 Love Languages

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BOOK ANNOUNCEMENT

An Essential Resource for Pre-Blended Family Couples & Their Children

Preparing to Blend The Couple's Guide to Becoming a Smart Stepfamily by Ron L. Deal

Did you know that 40% of all married couples with children are blended families? Did you know that 15% of all *first* marriages form blended families? Blended families (also called stepfamilies) are becoming more prevalent, and now—with at least **one-third of all American marriages forming blended families**—people are asking for counsel in navigating the expectations and challenges of these nontraditional families.

Ron Deal, President of Smart Stepfamilies[™] and Director of FamilyLife Blended[®] (a ministry of FamilyLife[®]), writes his new book, *Preparing to Blend*, directly to those preparing to merge their families—single parents who are dating, engaged, or nearly engaged, and their future spouses.

As a licensed marriage and family therapist and one of the most recognized experts on blended families, Ron answers difficult questions like:

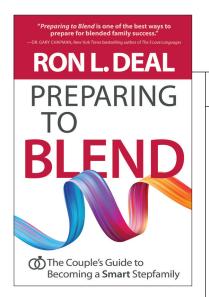
- What should I expect when marrying someone who's lost a spouse or been divorced?
- Will my kids be angry if I get married again?
- How can we plan our wedding with the kids in mind?
- How long will it take our united family to experience peace and harmony?
- How do we combine our finances?

This book will provide healthy advice for blended family marriages. Readers will receive tips on how to develop a strong relationship between stepparent and stepchildren, learn why premarital counseling is valuable, and receive a list of other recommended premarital resources for blended families.

Preparing to Blend is also a highly accessible teaching resource for community leaders, religious advisors, and counselors eager to equip couples for their transition into merged family living. The book and *free* downloadable Leader's Guide set the standard for a thorough, effective premarital preparation program for counselors, marriage educators, and clergy of pre-blended family couples.

"Preparing to Blend is a kind and helpful guide for families who are merging two households into one.... What a gift this book will be to all couples who want to navigate well and learn to thrive as a stepfamily."

—Lysa TerKeurst, #1 New York Times bestselling author; president, Proverbs 31 Ministries



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ABOUT THE AUTHOR:



Ron L. Deal is one of the most widely read and viewed experts on blended families in the country. He is president of Smart StepfamiliesTM, directs the blended family ministry at FamilyLife, and is the author of more than a dozen books and resources, including the bestselling *The Smart Stepfamily* and *Building Love Together in Blended Families* (with Dr. Gary Chapman). Ron is a licensed marriage and family therapist, popular conference speaker, host of the podcast *FamilyLife*

Blended, and has been interviewed by diverse media groups including CNBC and Fox News, and he has been published/quoted by *The New York Times*, Good Morning America Online, *The Wall Street Journal*, Vox.com, CNBC.com, ABC News.com, Today.com, *USA Today*, and *U.S. News and World Report*. He and his wife, Nan, have been married since 1986 and have three boys. Learn more at rondeal.org and familylife.com/blended.

Blended Family Statistics

- "Nontraditional families" are the new traditional family. In the U.S., Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and most European countries, single parent families, single adult households, cohabiting couples, and blended families now *outnumber* "traditional" families.
- Approximately *one-third* of all weddings in America today form stepfamilies.
- 15% of *first* marriages in the U.S. form blended families (24% for people over age 30 marrying for the first time).
- 40% of all married couples with children are blended families.
- 75% of stepfamily couples don't get premarital preparation.
- Premarital preparation reduces the risk of divorce by 30%.

See https://smartstepfamilies.com/smart-help/marriage-family-stepfamily-statistics for more statistics and reference information.

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