

"Preparing to Blend is one of the best ways to prepare for blended family success."

—DR. GARY CHAPMAN, New York Times bestselling author of *The 5 Love Languages*

RON L. DEAL

PREPARING TO BLEND



The Couple's Guide to
Becoming a **Smart** Stepfamily

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**

Available at your local bookstore, bethanyhouse.com or by calling 1-800-877-2665.

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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 Stepfamilies™, 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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