

Stepfamily Guidelines

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A stepfamily is the clashing of birth order children, the collision of the parents, and the confusion of the family tribes. It takes three to seven years for the family to blend.

- 1 - The husband and wife must first blend.
- 2 - The parents discipline their own children until the couple blending takes place.
- 3 - Children and step-parents can take up to 7 years to accept and respect each other. Until that happens, parents should continue to discipline their own children. However, couples should be a "united front" on their principles and guidelines for discipline.
- 4 - Exchange your "rule books" for living - - - your hopes, hurts, expectations, experiences, etc.
- 5 - Do not move into the home of either partner - begin the marriage fresh with a new home that belongs to the couple.
- 6 - If belongings (i.e. furniture, housewares, etc.) from previous relationships are an issue for either partner, get rid of them and get new replacements.
- 7 - Include God in your relationships. Pray & worship together.
- 8 - The stepchildren can be the enemy of the second marriage. They will seek to break it up and restore the previous family unit.
- 9 - If the children cannot pull the parents apart, they may pull together against the parents.
- 10 - Stepfamilies are born out of loss - the grieving for and loss of the former family unit.

Stepfamily Guidelines

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- 11 - Check with others before making decisions.
- 12 - Don't touch other's property without permission.
- 13 - No family member is more important than the whole family.
- 14 - Everyone's individuality is important.
- 15 - Each member must contribute to the family unit.
- 16 - Avoid triangles and unhealthy alliances that split the unity of the family.
- 17 - A woman can love her husband only to the extent she knows her children are safe.
- 18 - The children retain their original birth order.
- 19 - This family will not be perfect.
- 20 - We can't go back to the old family.

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