

Blended Family

CFCL

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Introduction

The simple definition of a blended family, also called a stepfamily, or a complex family, is a family unit where one or both parents have children from a previous relationship, but they have combined to form a new family. Children have a difficult time-sharing parent. Blended families may have more children than nuclear families, sibling rivalry, identity confusion, mixed feelings about a stepparent, legal disputes, financial difficulties infringing on territory.

Characteristic that are needed to sustain a blended family

- I. Understanding The Purpose of Life (*Why Do I exist*): You were created to bring *glory* to God in all aspects of life. (Isaiah 43:7, Romans 11:36, Colossians 1:15-17, 1 Corinthians 10:31, 2 Corinthians 5:9,15,
 - a. To glorify God-to demonstrate the greatness of His Character by functioning according to His design and will in all aspects of life.

- II. Understanding God's designed marriage for Companionship.(Genesis 2:18)
 - a. Marriage was designed so that man would not be alone.
 - b. God designed marriage for Co-laboring (Genesis 2:15-18)
 - c. Marriage was designed to provide man with a woman to assist him in his God-given responsibilities. (Genesis 2:15-23)
 - d. God designed marriage for Cleaving (Genesis 2:24)
 - e. Marriage was designed so that man and woman can help each other become useful to Jesus Christ practically resulting in fulfilling their God-given purposes for existence.

- III. Understand effective communication is tied to understanding the control of communication
 - a. Communication *reflects* what's in our hearts.(Luke 6:44-45).
 - b. The carefulness of listening to others according to God's Wisdom leads to discernment.
 - c. When you listen to others according to God's wisdom you can seek to determine if the issue is a matter of wisdom- seeking to determine the good, better, best course of action in a situation.

- e. We must be cautious to listen to others with the intent to gain knowledge about them. (Proverbs 18:15) Husband must listen to wife to understand them and vice versa

IV. Understand how trials expose and develop your faith (James 1:3)

- a. Expose what you depend on apart from God that you may turn from it and turn to God to build true hope in Him alone
- b. Trials expose and develop your endurance (James 1:3) and how you handle disruptions and devastation and teaches you how to persevere and stay godly as you work through them

V. **Understanding Love 1 Corinthians 13**

- a. Agape—love that is based upon the power of God to seek the highest of good of others unconditionally, no strings attached. “It is concerned not with how we feel but how we act. It responds not to the attractiveness of the other person but to the condition and need of the other person. Its motivation is not the selfish desire to enjoy the other person but the selfless desire to benefit him. Essentially, it is concerned and benevolent toward others.”¹

VI. **Understanding and controlling you Anger (Ephesians 4:26-32) be angry but do not sin**

- a. Disposition of the mind that entertains antagonism towards another individual, manifesting itself in various emotions and actions. (Genesis 4:1-8, Mark 3:1-6)
- b. Anger is an attitude that results in emotions that move into action. (Proverbs. 14:17,29,15:18,16:32,19:19,22:24-25)
 - 1. Parorgismos is that inside, seething, fuming resentment, that comes out of jealousy, and anger, and envy, and it just sort of seethes, until you become an ugly, moody person with a root of bitterness.
 - 2. Thumos has to do with a boiling fury, you know, where you blow a gasket; it literally comes from “to go up in smoke.” You just completely lose it.
 - 3. org is a kind of word that has to do with a kind of a settled conviction kind of anger. In other words, you have certain priorities in your life, you have certain things you’re committed to, and when something violates that, there’s a natural response

VII. You must be able to forgive

(Ephesians 4:32, Luke 17:3-4, Matthew 18:15-18,21-35, 1 John 1:9, Psalm 32:1-5, Galatians 6:1-2)

Definition of Forgiveness: To disregard, to let go of, to release from, to pardon, to cancel a debt owed; The key to forgiveness is not if we should forgive, but when do we forgive and how do we forgive?