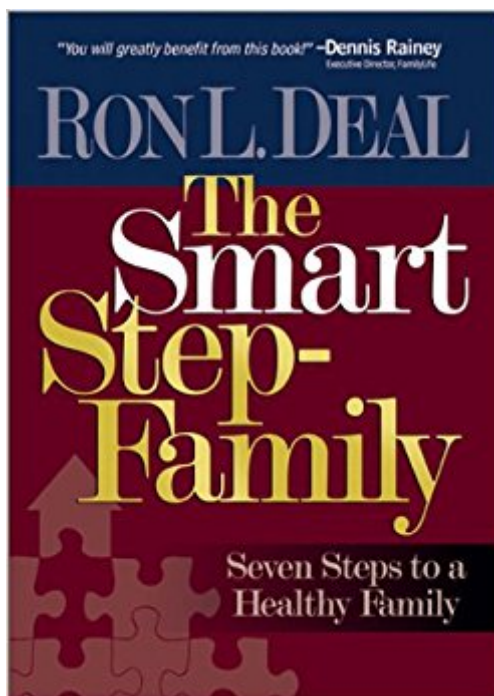


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# The Smart Step-Family: Seven Steps To A Healthy Family



## Synopsis

Ron Deal explodes the myth of the "blended" family as he provides practical, realistic solutions to the issues that stepfamilies face. He helps remarried and soon-to-be married couples Recognize the unique personality and place of each family member Solve the everyday puzzles of stepparenting and stepchildren relationships Learn communication skills to deal with ex-spouses Honor families of origin while developing new traditions Invest the time to grow their stepfamily slowly rather than look for instant results No two stepfamilies are alike, and the principles, information, illustrations, discussion questions, and activities in *The Smart Stepfamily* help couples focus on their specific situation to build healthy marriages and peaceful families. Based on Ron Deal's nationwide stepfamily seminars, this material is equally helpful for couples, small groups, pastors, and counselors.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Comprehensive, common sense discussion of challenges that stepfamilies face, with biblical resolutions. He explodes the myth of the 'blended family.'" -- Moody, Nov/Dec 2002  
"Exceptional book... Chapters addressing sexuality, money, discipline, and stepfathers assuming spiritual headship of the family offer excellent insights." -- Christian Home & School, Mar/Apr 2003

"He compassionately and competently describes the spiritual and relational challenges facing stepfamilies. Ron provides practical and wise instruction for successfully navigating the stepfamily

journey. The Smart Stepfamily is the best book available for stepfamilies that I've seen. I'm convinced it will prove to be a valuable resource for stepfamilies. Buy it, read it, and share it with a friend." - Dennis Rainey, Executive Director, Family Life "Ron Deal has, by far, the best material available on stepfamilies. The insights and suggestions he shares work. Every stepfamily will benefit from reading this book." - H. Norman Wright, Licensed marriage, family, and child therapist, found of Christian Marriage Enrichment, author "I love this book!" It adds an important dimension to the understanding of stepfamilies and reads as if sitting with wise friends. Written on the 'information is power' premise, The Smart Stepfamily weaves together a review of biblical materials, current psychological and sociological research, best practices, practical insights, and anecdotal stories to educate and support stepfamilies and the clergy who serve them." - Dr. Margorie Engel, President and CEO, Stepfamily Association of America

I haven't finished reading it but it is so necessary for the culture and the sad state of the family trying to navigate divorce, remarriage and children without a clue. Ron Deal has his finger on the pulse of the step family like no other. Both my daughters are in a step parenting situation and need the wise counsel in this book...their husbands too. Step grandparents are also in need of this information. A must read for all step families!

This book is everything it promises to be! It has been helping me and my husband, from the beginning, to wade through the obstacles of being a stepparent and a biological parent at the same time. My husband and I each have two children of our own that we brought to this second marriage, and this book tackles the real-life struggles we are facing in attempting to mesh our 3 girls and 1 boy, ages 4 through 18. It not only speaks on child-rearing issues, but on dealing with ex-spouses and ex-in-laws! This is a MUST-READ for all those entering into or in the throes of stepfamily life! It is practical, insightful, convicting and encouraging. (Another good read is "The Smart Stepmom," which is a branch off of this book.)

I bought this book before I got married. It didn't really help me that much more of a generalization. I didn't know what I was getting into and would have liked some better advice.

I actually ordered this book for my boyfriend. We have been talking about marriage for a while and he's expected to propose this year. I have never been married but I do have a 12 year old daughter. They have a wonderful relationship. She looks forward to him becoming her father since her dad

has never been in her life. I am still looking for more books that resemble my situation but these books still serve as a foundation. Here is the review from my boyfriend: It's repetitive on couples that are looking to remarry. It does not address a single unwed parent. It does have you learn the value and importance and becoming one. How to create a family and how to have less stress. Learning about putting the family first. The book explains the importance of it. You learn from mistakes and different lessons you may go through now. He can see the mistakes and be prepared for them. I'm enjoying it.

I wish I would have purchased this book after I divorced. This book is an excellent Christian resource not just in moving forward in a blended family but dealing with the wounds and hurts of divorce. It really helped me deal with personal pain with my divorce, along with guilt and anger. Moving forward with this book into my new blended family has been wonderful. Ron Deal really hits the nail on the head with this book. If you are considering marrying into a blended family this is a must read. If you are already slap into a blended family, no matter how many years in, this is still an extremely helpful book. No matter the resource a couple has to be united in their commitment to making the new family work for everyone. Just like divorce, a blended family doesn't have to be devastating for children if parents would act like adults and validate feelings. It's not always good and/or easy, but the rewards are great in the end. The statistics of failure are even greater in remarriage, so we should tap all available resources to make it work. I most definitely recommend this book and also check out his website for monthly newsletters for stepfamilies. It really helps.

If you are in a blended family I cannot recommend this book enough. This book has been my saving grace in our families transition, and I still find myself turning to re-read certain chapters. Very well written, organized, covering a variety of topics with first hand experiences & scripture for strength. Must have.

This book was a good price and arrived quickly. The content of this book has been and still is very helpful in raising my wife and I's children within a mixed family. I wish I had (and recommend) this book prior to marriage in order to be aware of the sensitive and painful changes a step-family brings. The changes required to become one with my wife while respecting the nuclear family identity is a balance requiring lots of communication. This book provided categories which guided this communication and, I believe, made it more productive. This book has defined chapters which allow it to be read through or allow skipping around to points of immediate interest.

great book, great tips, highly recommend However, I will disclaim that it only works if both step parents read it and implement what it says. I'd recommend reading this book before marrying because the scenarios in this book will happen and it will open your eyes to the reality.

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