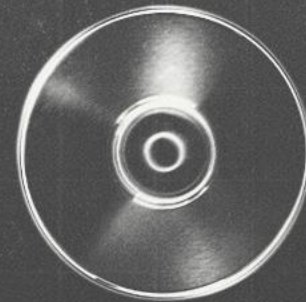


# Generation to **GENERATION**

Uncommon Parenting Conference





**FamilyLife Blended®**

Strengthening Stepfamilies



# Building a Successful Stepfamily

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# Principle #1

Recognize that stepfamilies are formed due to loss

- Grief is often ignored; kids are at least a year behind adults emotionally
- Stepcouples often don't prepare for the complexities and time required for relationships to come together
- There's baggage (past hurts create trust and shame issues)

# Colossians 3:23-24 (AMP)

“Whatever you do [whatever your task may be], work from the soul [that is, put in your very best effort], as [something done] for the Lord and not for men, knowing [with all certainty] that it is from the Lord [not from men] that you will receive the inheritance which is your [greatest] reward. It is for the Lord Christ whom you [actually] serve.”

# Principle #2

Where does my loyalty reside?

- Primarily toward the marriage,
- Or primarily toward the kids?

# Principle #3

Healthy stepfamilies include healthy co-parenting

- Apply the serenity prayer

God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference.

# Principle #3 (cont.)

- Do our part toward a cooperative relationship

“If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.”

Romans 12:18 (NIV)

# Principle #4

Accept the reality of present day circumstances to find contentment

- The Apostle Paul says,  
“I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances.”  
Philippians 4:11



# Principle #5

Expect the unexpected in stepfamily life:

- Custody changes, hard circumstances, job changes, relocations, etc.

“Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the Lord will bring you today. The LORD will fight for you; you need only to be still.”

Exodus 14:14

# Principle #6

Offer grace.....rinse and repeat

“Love never gives up...It trusts God always, always looks for the best, never looks back, but keeps going to the end.”

1 Corinthians 13:7

# Principle #7

Step down your expectations of how quickly your blended family will bond and find harmony

# Principle #8

Marriage relationship must be your top priority

- Time is the answer to a lot of issues in stepfamilies, don't give up
- Become a ghost buster

# Principle #9

Keep a long-range focus

- Don't parent out of guilt
- Be mindful of healthy boundary-setting

# Principle #10

Ask God for wisdom and discernment every day

“If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God who gives generously to all.”

James 1:5

# Principle #11

Healthy stepfamilies can be very redemptive for children

# Principle #12

Expect God to show up!

...for He [God] Himself said, “I will not in anyway fail you nor give you up nor leave you without support. [I will] not, [I will] not, [I will] not in any degree leave you helpless nor forsake you nor let [you] down nor relax My hold on you! [Assuredly not!]”

So take comfort and be encouraged and confidently and boldly say, The Lord is my helper [in my time of need], I will not be afraid.

Hebrews 13:5-6 (AMP)