Laying the Foundation for Successful Blended Families

# Introduction.

# Isolation and loneliness

A. Felt by the new stepparent.

B. Experienced by the biological parent.

C. Unexpectedly lonely.

D. Cry out to God.

E. Love.

* + 1. Make the goal of your family, love, not like.
    2. Prepare to love by fighting unrealistic expectations which make loving more difficult.

3. Pray and ask for God's help.

4. Love your spouse.

**Humanly speaking, the most important factor** in the success of the stepfamily is the relationship between the husband and wife.

# Guilt and bitterness.

## Strong bonds.

## Signs of guilt and bitterness.

## Godly anger.

## Guilty parties.

# The case of a man who left his wife for another woman and is now repentant.

# What if the former spouse won't solve problems?

1. Let go of the wish to receive approval and appreciation from the former spouse.
2. Live as if your only treasure is to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death (Philippians 3:10). This is what constitutes success in your mind.
3. Don’t make the former spouse the scapegoat for all stepparenting hassles.
4. Don't forget that your current spouse is priority. Don’t waste time, energy and resources fretting about someone who stubbornly refuses to be reconciled.

* Return good for evil.

Additional Resources:

* Baker, Amy (2012). *Children and Divorce: Helping When Life Interrupts.* Greensboro, NC: New Growth Press.
* Baker, Jeff & Amy (2006). *Keys to Successful Stepfamilies.* Lafayette, IN: Faith Resources.
* Smith, Winston T. (2008). *Help for Stepfamilies: Avoiding the Pitfalls and Learning to Love.* Greensboro, NC: New Growth Press.