

Holidays for Blended Families

For some blended families, the holidays are a mixed bag. On one hand, the miracle and message of Christmas brings joy and peace to the soul. On the other this time of year can bring unwanted stepfamily reminders:

- Still merging. Adults are reminded that the family is still merging and not yet “finished cooking.” For many this brings both hope for what might be and sadness over relationships that have not yet bonded.
- Set backs are common. Just when you think things are getting better, stressors knock you back a couple steps and you’re reminded how long the road can be.
- Kids can be hot and cold. When children close-off or sharpen their tongue stepparents are reminded that their place in a child’s heart is tentative and easily impacted by loss and loyalty. They are reminded to take a step back and again meet the child emotionally where they are—and where they will allow you to be.
- You can’t control everything. Between-home power-plays and schedules demand that you plan, plan, plan, and then be flexible with the execution as decisions by others make your plans crumble. High structure parents are often brought to their knees during this time of year and must learn to let go or they’ll drive themselves and everyone around them crazy.

Thankfully, though, the Christmas season also brings additional reminders that help families transcend these momentary stressors.

- God has come to his people. This brings hope to the hopeless and the awareness that what is seen is constantly being reshaped by what is unseen.
- There is power for today. The Holy Spirit offers counsel, strength, and wisdom for God’s people. The mercy of Christ, for example, can be the exact tool needed by stepfamily members. Mercy toward those difficult to love fosters openness, decency, and sometimes even repentance.
- Nothing is impossible with God. Humble beginnings, impractical circumstances, and unworkable scenarios are not too much for the Almighty. They weren’t when the Savior was born, and they aren’t now.

From Family Life Blended.