



# Shepherd Care®

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*To Care for People Where They Live and Work*

## COMMUNITY *Care* TOPIC

### ***Making a Blended Family Work***

#### ***Yours, Mine & Ours***

The husband and wife fall deeply in love, and they combine two distinct families into one. He was married before and may have a few children and She was married before and may have a few children. What is the result? Often times it is confusion and chaos; disorder and misunderstandings. "A house be divided against itself cannot stand." (*Mark 3:25*) It was not supposed to be like this...was not our love real and strong enough?!

#### ***Where is the Hope?***

The strength to make a blended family work needs to be found IN the hearts of the members of the family. This requires a work of all of the members of the new family. One person's will power is not enough to hold any family together...but especially a blended one. What is the answer? Here are some ingredients:

- ***Love!*** Everyone must love each other. Respect the rights of the new family members.
- ***Priorities.*** The spouses have to model love for each other *first*. Clear guidelines on discipline need to be established so issues involving children do not separate the family unit. This lets both the Mom and Dad be the parents to ALL children equally.
- ***Talk and Listen!*** Communicating with openness before everything hits the fan. Seek to understand.

- ***Trust!*** Give the new family members opportunities to succeed.
- ***Together Activities!*** Pray, play, and spend time together as a *family*. Celebrate important events together.
- ***Try!*** This will require doing things for all other family members that are unselfish and caring. Patience may be required.
- ***Love More!*** Everyone must love each other a little more than themselves. It is, after all, for the good of the *new* family.

#### ***Re-define the Definition of What "Blended" Means***

The definition of *blend*- "is to mix or mingle, especially so thoroughly that the separate ingredients cannot be distinguished; to harmonize." The best way to make the blended family work is to practice the dictionary definition and to have a mixture that creates a brand new "recipe" for this brand-new family. Individuality becomes Unity. The blended family gradually ceases to be "Yours and Mine"...it becomes "*Ours!*"

Introducing your Community Chaplain

**Eric Kieselbach**  
(pronounced "key-sill-baa")

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"Blend: The recipe to make individuals into a family."

*"Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken."*  
**Ecclesiastes 4:12**

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