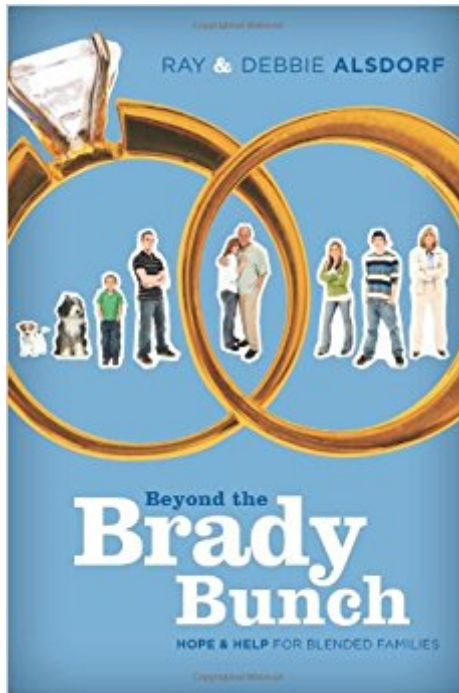




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# Beyond The Brady Bunch: Hope And Help For Blended Families



## Synopsis

A message of hope for blended families, from a couple who have been in the trenches - and made it. • Blending a family is far more messy and complicated than any television show portrays. Beyond the Brady Bunch is a heart book, not a how-to book. Christians who find themselves in the midst of step-family life often feel hopeless and far from God, struggling with grief and unforgiveness. From personal experience the authors have found that all the how-to steps in the world don't work if there isn't first a heart change. Speaking with honesty and vulnerability they share their own mistakes and how God dealt with their hearts. The book will help stretch hearts, minds and homes past the image of "perfect" and another "happily ever after" into the hope of God's promise to restore, heal and rebuild.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This book opens up your eyes to the reality of blended families. But it gives you hope that God brings the best out of our difficulties and that He is always with us. I like the fact that I am not alone in my circumstances in a blended family and that we are not the only ones learning. It doesn't sugarcoat anything. So, if you want to be real about life, but you want God's grace, learn from this family who's been there and done that.

Now in the United States we have fifty percent of all first marriages fail and end in divorce. That is an alarming amount as when we get married the pastor used to say "Till death do we part" but now

it seems as though the ones that are getting married are seeing it as "if this don't work " it doesn't cost that much to get a divorce. This book BEYOND THE BRADY BUNCH is a book that can be useful for families that have combined two different families in marriage. Some of them are like the old TV show "The Brady Bunch" as the two families with children have a lot of adjusting to do. The children may not get along and that makes it hard on everyone. This book is filled with ideas and personal stories that may be able to help your family if it has two different groups of people with children, as they try to get along together. The authors have written in first-person by each of the two authors, weaknesses are admitted and discussed, with biblical solutions offered. At the end of each chapter there is a list that help the reader to focus on the main points. Thanks to Karen Davis at The B&B Media group for this copy for me to review.

There was a lot of helpful things about this book. I didn't like that it focused too much on the divisions of biology rather than the ways of making the love bond. All parents are parents, regardless of how. Liked how this book gave practical advice and had questions at the end of each chapter.

This book is ahMAZING for anyone blending families!!! So helpful in having realistic expectations of the process! I feel this book was truly a turning point in my husband and I understanding our kids and one another in our marriage.

I have to admit: I loved this title right away! As a divorced woman and single mom who eventually remarried, I already knew that I wasn't headed into a "Brady Bunch" relationship. As a social worker who counsels divorced adults and works with families, I like this book because it is true-to-life experience, and it draws from the family experiences of these two authors (I had not heard of them before). If you enjoy this book, you might also like a book by Ginger Kolbaba, here on , called "Surprised by Remarriage." In the same way, the author shares from her own life experiences. "Beyond Brady" is a great read for stepfamilies and/or blended families; you will learn from this book. Using the authors' own experiences helps frame many of the issues that all of us face. Barbara Sheldon, M.S.W. I also highly recommend: Happily Remarried: Making Decisions Together \* Blending Families Successfully \* Building a Love That Will Last

If you are in a blended family or know of one (and these days that's just about all of us) pick up this book. It's an in-depth look at how stepfamilies form and the myriad of difficulties that have to be

overcome or endured. What I appreciated most about the book was that it stripped away the fairytale ideal that the new, blended family is going to mesh magically without any problems. I also particularly enjoyed the sections written from the Alsdorfs' now grown children. Their perspective on what it's like to be a child in a blended family was invaluable. Honest and open about their own experience, and drawing on the experiences of other blended families, the Alsdorfs give a thorough look at what to expect and how to deal with the difficulties that are sure to come up.

"Fifty percent of all first marriages end in divorce," and "seventy percent of third marriages" also end in divorce. With shocking statistics like those, it's easy to see how this relevant book could be a useful tool in most families. There's plenty of good common sense between the covers. Family life is messy, and blended families are even messier! We need all the help we can get, and here is a book chock full of workable ideas. It's filled with personal stories, anecdotes, and case studies. Interspersed are extracts from published material from others experienced with families who are blending. Written in first-person by each of the two authors, weaknesses are admitted and discussed, with biblical solutions offered. The four adult children of this blended family each share a part while looking back over their experiences. At the end of each chapter, a bulleted Bringing It Home list helps the reader to focus on the main points. If you know of a couple about to remarry, I suggest this as a good wedding present. Thank you to FirstWildCard and Karen Davis at The B&B Media Group/David C. Cook for my copy.

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