



THE SMART STEPDAD by RON DEAL

Jim's favorite quotes

Pg.11 "In the united states 50% of children will have a stepparent at some point in their lifetime, 90% of children in stepfamilies live with their mom and stepdad. Stepchildren who have good relationships with both their stepfather and their nonresident biological father have better outcomes than children who have good relationships with just their father."

Pg. 15, "Your stepchildren may think you're either the best thing since sliced bread or an 'invader.' And everything in between. And your wife, who 'hired' you, obviously wants you there but may not always know to work with you. It can be confusing. That's why you must choose to be a hero. "

Pg. 21 "Essentially the goal of stepparenting is to join biological parents in their task of raising and maturing healthy, responsible, faith-focused children."

Pg. 14 "Being successful as the new stepdad depends heavily on finding your fit, identifying your responsibilities and objectives, and buddying up with your allies. What do you mean by fit?"

Pg 53 "If you are going to understand stepchildren (whether still living at home or adults on their own), you have to understand the impact of loss, loyalty, and emotional attachment on their lives" Please elaborate on what you mean by "impact of loss?"

Pg. 65 "You can expect exclusive loyalty from your wife- that is part of the marital covenant. But you should not expect exclusive loyalty from your stepchildren."

Pg. 24 "Early climb best practices.

- 1: If still dating, slow down.
- 2: Keep pace with the kids
- 3: Be a smart stepdad before becoming a good father
- 4: Pursue kids with common sense
- 5: Be patient"

Pg. 37 "After the wedding, he felt dumped- that she jumped ship and became more a mother than his wife. This dynamic gets played out in many aspects of marriage and family but is most apparent to men in their sexual relationship."

Pg. 71 "The point is simple: do your best to treat your children and your stepchildren fairly."

Pg. 83 "Okay. Let's get practical, becoming a smart stepdad involves, teamwork with your wife, having an ambassador attitude, and having a full set of tools in your parenting toolbox."

Pg. ? "Your success as stepdad is heavily dependent upon your wife's help, support, and partnership in parenting."

Pg. 173 "First realize that harm is in the extremes. Obviously, you cross a boundary if you make romantic or sexual advances toward a stepdaughter but you also deny her healthy affirmation if you withdraw so far that your affections and positive encouragement can't be reached. Seek a balance in your posture."

Pg174 "Make sure that your well-intended actions of affection are not misinterpreted, apply this principle to let your stepchildren set the pace for affection in the relationship."

Pg. 198 "One aspect of negotiating with the other home is choosing your battles carefully. Decide what your non-negotiables are and then look for ways to compromise on issues that aren't."

Pg. 207 "One mark of a healthy relationship is the ability to overcome martial lethargy by energizing the relationship with focused amounts of time. Feeding the relationship with enjoyable activities and nurturing time together provides fertile ground for marriage to thrive."