

FOCUS ON THE FAMILY

By Dr. James Dobson

Blending families can be stressful for children, parents

QUESTION: My husband died two years ago, leaving our two children and me behind. I have met a wonderful man, Bill, also a widower with two kids — and we plan to marry. I have a concern that my children are not in favor of the relationship. Where should we start to build our new family? And could you identify the issues that are likely to be most difficult for us?



Dr. Dobson

DR. DOBSON: I would strongly suggest that you get some outside help as you bring your two families together. It is extremely difficult to do that on your own, and for some people, it is impossible. If you can afford professional counseling from a marriage, family and child counselor who has dealt with blended families, it would be wise to get that assistance. A pastor also might be able to guide you, although there are some tough relationship issues to be handled by a professional who has “been there” before.

You’re already experiencing the thorny issue of conflict between Bill and your children, which is common. One of your kids is likely to see your future husband as a usurper. When a mother or father dies or when a divorce occurs, one child often moves into the power vacuum left by the departing parent. That youngster becomes the surro-

gate spouse. I’m not referring to sexual matters. Rather, that boy or girl becomes more mature than his or her years and relates to the remaining parent more as a peer. The status that comes with that supportive role is very seductive, and he or she is usually unwilling to give it up. The stepfather becomes a threat to that child. Much work must be done to bring them together.

The kids’ loyalty to the memory of their dad is another issue that requires sensitive handling. In their eyes, to welcome the newcomer with open arms would be an act of betrayal. That’s certainly understandable and something that must be worked through with your children. It will require time, patience, understanding, and prayer.

I would say the greatest problem you will face, however, is the way you and Bill will feel about your kids. Each of you is irrationally committed to your own, and you’re merely acquainted with the others. When fights and insults occur between the two sets of children, you will be tempted to be partial to those you brought into the world, and Bill will probably favor his own flesh and blood. The natural tendency is to let the blended family dissolve

into armed camps — us against them. If the kids sense any tension between you and Bill over their clashes, they will exploit and exaggerate it to gain power over the other children, etc. Unless there are some ways to ventilate these issues and work through them, battles will occur that will be remembered for a lifetime.

I have painted a worst-case scenario in order to prepare you for what could occur. Now let me encourage you. Many of these problems can be anticipated and lessened. Others can be avoided altogether. It is possible to blend families successfully, and millions have done it. But the task is difficult, and you will need some help in pulling it off.

QUESTION: Is it inevitable that sexual desire must diminish in the fifth, sixth, and seventh decades of life?

DR. DOBSON: There is no organic basis for healthy women or men to experience less desire as they age. The sexual appetite depends more on a state of mind and emotional attitudes than on one’s chronological age. If a husband and wife see themselves as old and unattractive, they might lose interest in sex for reasons only secondary to their age. But from a physical point of view, it is a myth that men and women must be sexually apathetic unless there are disease processes or physical malfunctions to be considered.

Pray for our nation to seek God

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. John 13:34 Pd. Adv.

Send your questions to Dr. Dobson, c/o Focus on the Family, PO Box 444, Colorado Springs, CO 80903; or to his Web site at www.flof.org. These questions and answers are excerpted from books authored by Dr. James Dobson and published by Tyndale House Publishers. Dr. Dobson is the founder and chairman of the board of Focus on the Family, a nonprofit organization dedicated to the preservation of the home and Judeo-Christian values. Copyright 1997 James Dobson, Inc. All rights reserved. International copy secured.



Five generations

Five generations of the McGill family are pictured above. Camyn McGill (five months old when photo was taken) is held by her father, Nate McGill. Also pictured, l-r, are the baby’s great-grandfather, Dan McGill; grandfather, Shawn McGill; and great-great-grandfather, Norman McGill. Photo provided

Lessons from the Heart

Press On

By Pastor Dan Butcher



Butcher

“I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ.” Philippians 3:14.

Today more than any other time in my life, people are struggling. There is a struggle for employment and for provisions. There is a struggle to maintain relationships due to the many pressures people are turning to blame, and marriages and relationships are crumbling apart. Many people are even struggling with their faith - crying to heaven that if God loved them why is he allowing terrible things to happen in their lives.

Life has become a challenge and it is requiring people to fight for survival. People are being challenged to fight for what is important. As the times continue to be

difficult, a person’s true character will be revealed. How we measure up against this current challenge is everything. We are in the challenge of a lifetime and what is at stake is our souls and the souls of those who we love. The trial of the day is not a quick attack. The trial that we are living in will run its course, however, it will not soon depart. We are in a long run and we must run in such a way as to press on to the goal. We must press on to obtain the prize. We must endure this current time of trial and see the deliverance of Jesus Christ. Through our struggle, fac-

ing our challenge, enduring the trial we must see that we are not alone. We do not walk through this fire without help. Jesus Christ, through the power and the presence of the Holy Spirit, is with us. If anything good comes from these times, let it be that all God’s children turned to him for their strength. God promised that he would not leave us nor forsake us. He told us that he would turn our weakness into our greatest strength.

Today through economical strife, through moral collapse, through a faith crisis, we who are God’s people cannot give up. We must “press on.” “Press on.” “Press on.” And when weary, “press on.”

Dan Butcher is the pastor at Crossroads Community Christian Church near Bringham.

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SS = Sunday School	SW = Sunday Worship
<p>AMERICAN UNION NON-DENOMINATIONAL: Larry Williams, pastor. SW: 10 a.m.</p> <p>BRINGHURST UNITED METHODIST: Rex Charles, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m.</p> <p>BROOKSTON CHURCH OF CHRIST: 206 N. Prairie Street, Brookston. Ron Guzman, minister. SS: 9 a.m., SW: 10 a.m. & 6 p.m.</p> <p>BUCK CREEK UNITED METHODIST: 4915 Ferret St., Buck Creek. Dwight Monical, pastor. SS: 9 a.m., SW: 10:15 a.m.</p> <p>BURLINGTON FIRST BRETHREN: 205 W. 8th St., Rev. Dr. Peter Roussakis, pastor. SW: 10:00 a.m., SS: 9:00 a.m.</p> <p>BURLINGTON CHURCH OF CHRIST: Dave Osborne, Pastor. SW: 9:30 a.m., Bible Study (Thur): 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., SS: 10:30 a.m.</p> <p>BURLINGTON UNITED METHODIST: Bonnie Shoaf, pastor. SS: 11:00 a.m., SW: 9:30 a.m.</p> <p>BURNETTSTOWN FIRST BAPTIST: Second & Main, Burnettsville. SW: 10:00 a.m., SS: 11:15 a.m.</p> <p>BURNETTSTOWN CHRISTIAN: Sixth & Washington, Burnettsville. John Wright, pastor. SW: 9:30 a.m., SS: 10:30 a.m.</p> <p>BURNETTSTOWN CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN: First & Main, Burnettsville. SW: 9:30 a.m., SS: 10:30 a.m.</p> <p>BURROWS PRESBYTERIAN: SS: 11:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m.</p> <p>CALVARY CHAPEL CARROLL COUNTY: Wabash & Erie Canal Interpretive Center, Delphi. Eric Haley, pastor. SW: 10 a.m.</p> <p>CAMDEN UNITED METHODIST: Dan Gottschalk, pastor. SS: 9 - 9:45 a.m., SW: 10 a.m.</p> <p>CLYMERS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH: 4003 W 400S. Clymers Kevin Drane, pastor. SW: 10:30 a.m. SS: Same as worship.</p> <p>COLBURN ROAD BAPTIST: Bill Cadle, pastor. SS: 10 a.m., SW: 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.</p> <p>COLBURN UNITED METHODIST: Kasey Schnepf, pastor, SW: 9 a.m., SS: 10:20 a.m.</p> <p>CROSSROADS COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN: 3570 E 200S, Bringhurst, Dan C. Butcher, pastor, SW: 9:30 a.m. SS: 10:30 a.m. Youth group 6:30 p.m., Bible study Wed. 6:30 p.m.</p> <p>CUTLER PRESBYTERIAN: Jeff Brown and Ann Bingaman, lay pastors. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m.</p>	<p>DEER CREEK UNITED PRESBYTERIAN: Highway 29 in Deer Creek. Dave Heron, pastor. SW: 10 a.m. SS: Adult 8:45a.m. & Children 10:00 a.m.</p> <p>DELPHI CHRISTIAN CHURCH: 315 E. Main St, Delphi. Rev. Andrew Paris, minister. SW: 9:30 a.m., SS: 10:45 a.m. Wed. Bible study: 7 p.m.</p> <p>DELPHI CHURCH OF CHRIST: 405 Cottage Street, Delphi. Sunday Bible study: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 & 5 p.m., Wed. Night 7 p.m.</p> <p>DELPHI COMMUNITY CHURCH OF GOD: 321 W. Main Street, Delphi. Rev. Virgil Moss. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m. & 6 p.m.</p> <p>DELPHI PENTECOSTAL: Hwy. 25 East, Delphi. Tim Stewart, pastor. Thurs. night Bible Study: 7:30p.m., SS: 12:45 p.m., SW: 2 p.m.</p> <p>DELPHI UNITED METHODIST: Union & Monroe Streets, Delphi. SW: 8:45 & 11 a.m., SS: 10 a.m., Todd Ladd, pastor, Micah Hudson, youth pastor.</p> <p>DELPHI WESLEYAN: North Union Street, Delphi. Dan Fisher, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m. & 6 p.m.</p> <p>EASTLAWN UNITED METHODIST: SR 24 & Logan Street, Idaville. Mark Gaynor, pastor. SS: 9 a.m.</p> <p>FAITH CHURCH OF CHRIST: SR 29, Burlington. Steve Cole, minister. SW: 9:30 a.m. & 6 p.m. a.m., SS: 11 a.m., Wed. Bible study 7 p.m.</p> <p>FAITH LUTHERAN: CR 800 N, west of Hwy. 29. SS: 9 a.m., SW: 10:10 a.m.</p> <p>FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH: Hwys. 29 & 26, Middlefork. Jim Anderson, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m. & 6 p.m.</p> <p>FIRST APOSTOLIC CHURCH: U.S. 421 North, Tippecanoe Township. Gilbert R. Ingram, pastor. SW: 10 a.m. & 6 p.m.</p> <p>FIRST ASSEMBLY OF GOD: US 421N., Pittsburg. Brent Oliver, pastor. SW: 9:30 am, Wed. Family Night: 6:30pm, Adult & Youth Services Sun. Evenings 6pm.</p> <p>FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF CAMDEN: Paul Marcellino, pastor. Tue. 9:30 a.m. Women's study, SW: 9:30 a.m., SS: 10:45 a.m., Monthly Youth Group</p> <p>FIRST BAPTIST: Indiana & Franklin Streets, Delphi. William Glenn, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m. & 6 p.m.</p> <p>FLORA FIRST BAPTIST: 115 W. Columbia Street, Flora. Interim pastors. SW: 9 a.m., SS: 10 a.m.</p> <p>FLORA FIRST BRETHREN: 115 N. Washington Street, Flora. Dan Heron, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m.</p> <p>FLORA FIRST CHRISTIAN (Disciples of Christ) S. Center Street, Flora. Sam Davenport, interim pastor. SW: 9:30 a.m., SS: 10:30 a.m.</p> <p>FLORA GRACE BRETHREN: 103 S. Willow St., Flora. James Franklin, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m., Wed. Prayer Service: 7 p.m.</p> <p>FLORA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH: 211 S. Center St., Flora. Charles Compton, pastor. SW: 9:30 a.m.</p> <p>FLORA UNITED METHODIST: 107 E. Main Street, Flora. Rex Charles, pastor. SW: 9 a.m., SS: 10:15 a.m.</p> <p>FLORA VALLEY VIEW SOUTHERN BAPTIST: Route 2, Flora. Bill Godbey, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m. & 6 p.m.</p> <p>GRACE MISSIONARY BAPTIST: 1101 Dreifers Ave., Delphi. Mark Ramey, pastor. SS: 10 a.m. SW: 11 a.m.</p> <p>HICKORY GROVE CHURCH: CR 700 W., Jefferson Township, Ken Smith, pastor. SS: 9 a.m., SW: 10 a.m.</p> <p>HILLSIDE MISSIONARY BAPTIST: Hwy. 22, 2 miles E. of Burlington. Doyle Buckner, pastor. SS: 10 a.m., SW: 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.</p> <p>IDAVILLE CHURCH OF GOD: 11073 E 50 N, Idaville. Chris Murphy, pastor. SW 8:30 & 10:30 a.m., SS: 9:30 a.m.</p> <p>JUBILEE FELLOWSHIP: CR 50 N, Flora. Scott Gamel, pastor. SS: 9:00 a.m., SW: 10:00 a.m.</p> <p>LIVING FAITH CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN: 310N 250W, Jeff Tomson, pastor. SS: 9 a.m., SW: 10 a.m.</p> <p>LIVING STONE CHURCH: 54 Main St., Rossville. SS: 9 a.m., Fellowship: 9:45 a.m., SW: 10:15 a.m. Children's church available</p> <p>LOCKPORT NON-DENOMINATIONAL CHURCH: East of Patton. Nord Zootman, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m. Sun. Bible Study: 6:30 p.m.</p> <p>LOWER DEER CREEK CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN: CR 300 N, SE of Camden. Guy Studebaker, pastor. SW 10:15 a.m., SS: 9:00 a.m.</p> <p>OAK GROVE CHRISTIAN: 11810 N 900 W, Monticello. Interim pastor, Rev. Ashli Cartwright-Peak. SW: 10 a.m.</p> <p>PINE GROVE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH: Crooked Road, 1 mile E of Delphi. Justin Wagner, pastor. SS: 10 a.m., SW: 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.</p> <p>PITTSBURG MISSIONARY BAPTIST: John Wagner, pastor. SS: 10:30 a.m., SW: 11 a.m.</p> <p>PLEASANT HILL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH: 5490 North SR 39, Frankfort. Donna Enerson, pastor. SS: 9:45 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m. Everyone welcome.</p> <p>PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF DELPHI: Main & Indiana Streets, Delphi. Rev. Bill McLean. SW: 9:30 a.m., SS: 10:30 a.m.</p> <p>PYRMONT CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN: SS: 9 a.m., SW: 10:15 a.m.</p> <p>RADNOR CHURCH: Ed Selvidge, pastor. SW: 9 a.m., SS: 10 a.m.</p> <p>ROCKFIELD CHRISTIAN: Bob Cree, pastor. SW: 9 a.m., SS: 10 a.m.</p> <p>ROCKFIELD PRESBYTERIAN: SW: 9:30 a.m.</p> <p>ROSSVILLE BIBLE FELLOWSHIP: 16 Cason St., Judd Dickey, pastor. Sunday Corporate Prayer: 9:00 a.m.; Fellowship 9:30 a.m.; SW 10:00 a.m.</p> <p>ROSSVILLE CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN: 109 N. Plank Street, Rossville. Floyd Smith, pastor. SS: 9a.m., SW: 10 a.m.</p> <p>ROSSVILLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH: 5434 W State Rd 26, Rossville, IN. John Evertt, pastor. SS: 9 a.m., Fellowship: 9:45 a.m. SW: 10:15 a.m.</p> <p>ROSSVILLE UNITED METHODIST: Main & Gaddis Streets, Rossville. Rick Jones, pastor. SS: 9:15 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m.</p> <p>SHARON AMERICAN BAPTIST: St. Rd. 29, Carrollton Township. Alan Wyant, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m.</p> <p>ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC: 207 N. Washington Street, Delphi. Peter Vanderkolk, pastor. SW: 8 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.</p> <p>ST. MATTHEW'S LUTHERAN CHURCH: 1301 S. Washington St., Delphi. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m.</p> <p>ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN: Church & Cumberland Sts., Camden, 2 blocks West & 1 block North of SR218 and SR75. SW: 8:30 a.m. SS: Same as Worship.</p> <p>WHIRLWIND MINISTRIES: 869 N. 90 E., Burrows, Greg Britt, pastor. SW: 10 a.m. (574) 652-2280</p> <p>YEOMAN UNITED METHODIST: Carl Davis, pastor, SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m.</p>

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