

Going the 2nd Mile For Your Blended Family

I once heard the following quote:

It is NOT how much of the love of Jesus you know;
It IS how much of the love of Jesus you show.

Jesus described the compassion we should have for others in the story of the Good Samaritan.

Luke 10: 30-34 reads, "Jesus answered by telling a story. 'There was once a man traveling from Jerusalem to Jericho. On the way he was attacked by robbers. They took his clothes, beat him up, and went off leaving him half-dead. Luckily, a priest was on his way down the same road, but when he saw him he angled across to the other side. Then a Levite religious man showed up; he also avoided the injured man. A Samaritan traveling the road came on him. When he saw the man's condition, his heart went out to him. He gave him first aid, disinfecting and bandaging his wounds. Then he lifted him onto his donkey, led him to an inn, and made him comfortable.'"

How does this apply to your family? Realize the following:

- √ If there is friction in, or affecting your home, it is due to one or more people who are hurting.
- √ When an issue arises, we usually look for who caused it, rather than what caused it. (There is a big difference.)
- √ The issues are often ignored or avoided, since we do not know how to deal with it.
- √ The hurting people are often ignored or avoided, since we do not know how to deal with them. So we keep our distance from them, or maybe they are keeping their distance from us.

Here are 5 steps to going the 2nd Mile for your family:

1. Have eyes to see.
 - a. See who is around you. Get interested in their life.
 - b. See what the real causes of the issues are. It might even be you.
 - c. Identify who is hurting.
2. Have ears to hear. Observe what is being said. Ask questions and listen. Be open-minded. Allow hurting family members to express their hurts.
3. Have a heart of compassion! Desire to want to bandage some wounds.
4. Have feet to go to your family members (one at a time). Let them know how much you care for them, and how they are a vital part of your family.
5. Have hands to get involved. Take on the heart of the Good Samaritan, **NO MATTER WHAT IT COSTS YOU.**

The process of blending a family is tough. It can be wearing on your emotions, and that will affect your will to keep doing the right things.

Staying in prayer, and holding each family member up in prayer will keep you focused, and fresh!

Know this - people gravitate to the place where they experience unconditional love.

Keep planting Good Samaritan seeds in your family. God will cause the fruit to come up.