

## Family: No Matter What

September 17th, 2023

### Part 3

*The Spirit of the Lord GOD is on Me, because the LORD has anointed Me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and freedom to the prisoners.*

*(Isaiah 61:1, Holman Christian Standard Bible)*

*The Scripture you've just heard has been fulfilled this very day!*

*(Luke 4:21, New Living Translation)*

### WHAT DOES GOD SAY ABOUT BROKEN AND BLENDED FAMILIES?

## 1. Remember that your marriage is important to God.

*From the beginning God made them male and female. And he said, This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one. Since they are no longer two but one, let no one split apart what God has joined together.*

*(Matthew 19:4–6, NLT)*

*Didn't the LORD make you one with your wife? In body and spirit you are his. And what does he want? Godly children from your union. So guard your heart; remain loyal to the wife of your youth. For I hate divorce! says the LORD, the God of Israel.*

*(Malachi 2:15–16, NLT)*

## 2. In extreme cases, divorce may be necessary.

*Whoever divorces his wife and marries someone else commits adultery—unless his wife has been unfaithful.*

*(Matthew 19:9, NLT)*

*Marriage must be honored among all and the marriage bed kept undefiled.*

*(Hebrews 13:4, New English Translation)*

*But if the husband or wife who isn't a believer insists on leaving, let them go. In such cases the believing husband or wife is no longer bound to the other, for God has called you to live in peace. (1 Corinthians 7:15, NLT)*

### BCF Small Groups – [bcfchurch.com/groups](http://bcfchurch.com/groups)

- **H**ave some friends
- **O**pen your home
- **S**erve some snacks
- **T**urn on the TV

## 3. If you are in a blended family, focus on loving your family.

*Those who drink the water I give will never be thirsty again.*

*(John 4:14, NLT)*

### 1) Refuse to speak evil of your ex—or your spouse's ex.

*Don't speak evil against each other, dear brothers and sisters. . . .*

*God alone . . . is the Judge.*

*(James 4:11–12, NLT)*

### 2) Don't play favorites with your children.

*Jacob loved Joseph more than any of his other children . . . . But his brothers hated Joseph because their father loved him more than the rest of them. They couldn't say a kind word to him.*

*(Genesis 37:3–4, NLT)*

### 3) Choose to love your “step-family” as your own.

*Joseph took Mary as his wife, . . . . [and] she gave birth to the son. And*

*Joseph named him Jesus.*

*(Matthew 1:24–25, New Century Version)*

### Family Life Blended - [familylife.com/blended](http://familylife.com/blended)

*To all who mourn..., he will give a crown of beauty for ashes, a joyous blessing instead of mourning, festive praise instead of despair.*

*(Isaiah 61:3, NLT)*