

Introducing Your Kids to the New Man...Do You Know What It Takes?

The days of settling for less are behind us, and don't think that you have to settle just because you are a Christian single parent either. You can have a wonderful marriage, children, even the house with the white picket fence if you're so inclined. There's only two requirements: you've got to know what it takes to have those wonderful things, and you've also got to know how to maintain them and care for them in a Godly way.

Like anything else in life, you have to work hard at what you want because anything worth having hardly ever comes easy. However, bringing a new man into your life when you have children is a whole new ball of wax; it can get really sticky if you don't use the wisdom of God's Word. You can't wait until a relationship begins to prepare for this transition. It's much too delicate for that. You have to begin preparing yourself now, so that you can have solid footing as you begin to also help prepare your children's hearts and minds to accept a new person.

You want your children to love the man you choose as much as you do. This takes lots of prayer and wisdom. Why is this preparation so important? It's so important because God honors your children as much as He honors you. He is looking out for their well being too. Bringing the wrong person around your kids can sometimes have long lasting, harmful effects, but there is one thing for certain, as long as we keep our Heavenly Father at the forefront, nothing will be impossible.

God has given us freewill. When it comes to marriage, you have the power to choose your own destiny, which means you can change your situation whenever you get ready; it's completely up to you, but if your aim is to have a successful union for all involved, you must do things God's way, because His way is the right way—and it works!

Yes, God has a standard for bringing your new man around your children and doing things Heavenly Father's way requires that you keep three important factors in mind:

#1) Have quality, honest conversations about your goals to partner and expand your family unit. When the time is right, make the topic a part of your prayer time together, and also pray together about any fears your children are having about expanding the family. Spend time teaching them that God's love is meant to be shared, and that He would be very pleased if you were all able to share your love with a new special person.

#2) Remember that you are the parent and ultimately you have the responsibility to believe in faith over your children until they can believe for themselves. They cannot or should not feel as though they are empowered to make life decisions for your family. They are ill-equipped to do

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so. However, God holds you responsible for ensuring that your children are secure in your decision making ability.

Ephesians 6:1(NLT) says "*Children, obey your parents because you belong to the Lord, for this is the right thing to do.*" Be an example for your children, so that they know how to conduct themselves at all times. It would be pretty difficult to expect your little ones to respect and honor what you have to say, if your actions are less than honorable.

Again, you are the parent. It isn't wise to ask your children's permission to date. This may breed insecurity in your parenting. Affirm your commitment to your family unit by continuing to state your unconditional love for them. Most importantly, demonstrate that you are patient and that you trust God's love and care. Teach them by example how to walk by faith.

#3) Make sure you hear from God before introducing a new man to your kids. This is critical because once you introduce children, you can potentially leave them vulnerable to becoming attached and expose them to the painful experience of separation.

Out of our eagerness to feel companionship and love, sometimes our focus becomes a bit distorted and we lose sight of our priorities. However, we can never forget the importance of our roles in our children's lives when pursuing our own personal needs. Admittedly, we want what we want when we want it, but remember that there's a delicate balance between your personal needs and the welfare of your children.

As a mother, most of the time your kids want you all to themselves, but a father's role is vital and can't be overlooked or replaced. Ephesians 6:4 NLT says "*And now a word to you fathers. Don't make your children angry by the way you treat them. Rather, bring them up with the discipline and instruction approved by the Lord.*" Your desire to partner is natural. You should want to partner and God understands this desire. He knows that having a good man in the home is instrumental to the family unit, so be assured that God is looking out for both you and your children. Heavenly Father will not let you down. Continue to pray faithfully, and know that the spirit of Christ will lead, guide, and direct you to the person who is best for you and your children as well.

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