





4. *Ibid.*, 202.
5. Debra Mekos, E. Mavis Hetherington, and David Reiss, “Sibling Differences in Problem Behavior and Parental Treatment in Nondivorced and Remarried Families,” *Child Development* 67, no. 5 (October 1996): 2148–165. As reported in Ganong and Coleman, *Stepfamily Relationships*, 202.
6. Ron L. Deal, *Daily Encouragement for the Smart Stepfamily* (Bloomington, MN: Bethany House Publisher, 2018), 209.
7. Ron L. Deal, *The Smart Stepfamily: Seven Steps to a Healthy Family* (Bloomington, MN: Bethany House Publishers, 1994), 277–85.
8. Ron L. Deal, “What Do We Do Now? When Stepsiblings Have Sex,” Smart Stepfamilies, <https://smartstepfamilies.com/view/stepsibling-romance>.
9. I’m (Ron Deal) so grateful I heard my friend Bob Maday make this statement. I knew it was right—and profound—the moment I heard him say it.

### Chapter 7: Building Love Together in Grandparenting

1. Maximiliane E. Szinovacz, “Grandparents Today: A Demographic Profile,” *The Gerontologist* 38, no. 1 (1998): 37–52.
2. Kenneth W. Wachter, “Kinship Resources for the Elderly,” *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society of London Biological Sciences* 352, no. 1363 (December 1997): 1811–817. The ratio for Americans will be one stepgrandchild for every 1.7 biological grandchild.
3. Lauren Reitsema, *In Their Shoes: Helping Parents Better Understand and Connect with Children of Divorce* (Bloomington, MN: Bethany House Publishers, 2019).
4. Lawrence Ganong and Marilyn Coleman, *Stepfamily Relationships: Development, Dynamics, and Intervention*, 2nd ed. (New York: Springer, 2017), 214–26.
5. *Ibid.*, 222.

### Chapter 8: Building Love Together in the Face of Rejection

1. Gary’s book with Jennifer Thomas entitled *When Sorry Isn’t Enough: Making Things Right with Those You Love* (Chicago: Northfield Publishing, 2013) might help.
2. As heard on the podcast *FamilyLife Blended with Ron Deal* in an episode entitled “Challenging Co-Parent Situations and Parent Alienation,” April 29, 2019, [familylife.com/podcast/familylife-blended-podcast/6-challenging-co-parent-situations-and-parent-alienation/](http://familylife.com/podcast/familylife-blended-podcast/6-challenging-co-parent-situations-and-parent-alienation/). Listen to all of Ron’s podcasts here: <https://www.familylife.com/podcast/familylife-blended-podcast/>.
3. Visit Parental Alienation Awareness Organization USA at <https://www.paaousa.org/>. One recommended book is *Divorce Poison: How to Protect Your Family from Bad-mouthing and Brainwashing*, new and updated ed. (New York: HarperCollins, 2010) by Dr. Richard A. Warshak.
4. Shaunti Feldhahn, *The Kindness Challenge: Thirty Days to Improve Any Relationship* (Colorado Springs, CO: WaterBrook, 2016).

**Chapter 9: Encouragement for the Journey Ahead**

1. Dawn O. Braithwaite et al., “Feeling Warmth and Close to Her’: Communication and Resilience Reflected in Turning Points in Positive Adult Stepchild–Stepparent Relationships,” *Journal of Family Communication* 18, no. 2 (January 2018): 92–109, <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/15267431.2017.1415902>
2. Ibid., 97–98.
3. Ibid., 98–99.
4. Braithwaite et al. did not ask about aspects of Physical Touch nor did respondents spontaneously offer observations that would fall into this category.
5. Ibid., 99–100. Though “reconciliation/problem solving” was less common as a reported turning point, it had a positive effect. Taking the time to resolve conflict moves hearts toward emotional safety.