







God has an ideal plan, but the ideal does not always happen.

A child is conceived out of wedlock

A parent dies

Mom and Dad divorce

A parent remarries

A new household is formed, challenging old loyalties and creating new routines.

While a step-family may be a challenging and difficult situation for parents and children alike, it can reflect God's unity, even if it was born from brokenness.

After all, **God Himself is an adoptive parent**. He not only accepts all those who come to Him in repentance and faith into His family, but He adopts them as His children (John 1:12-13).

### **Romans 8:15**

*“For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.”*

*"I will be a Father to you, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty" (2 Cor. 6:18).*

Galatians 4:6 tells us: *“And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father.”*

There are many struggles and adjustments in a step-family situation. Step-families, like the people who comprise them, are \_\_\_\_\_ of God's ideals.

God is available to heal the brokenhearted and to help bring unity out of discord.

## **SIBLING RIVALRY**

### **I. The Problem of Sibling Rivalry**

Brothers and sisters can be best friends, bitter enemies— many factors contribute to this: the circumstance, the time of day, or their moods. Siblings can be kind or cruel to one another.

#### **A. Rivalry**



This is particularly true in three areas.

- 1- **Physical attractiveness** and body characteristics.
- 2- The matter of \_\_\_\_\_ is another sensitive nerve.
- 3- Children (and especially boys) are extremely competitive with regard to \_\_\_\_\_.

### **C. Changing Roles**

Adolescence is a time of many monumental changes.

The young person may have more responsibilities at home; he or she may be entering a new school or starting apart-time job. His or her relationships with friends may become deeper, or broader—with members of the opposite sex.

### **D. Stress**

Sibling rivalry can become severe due to stress in a family situation.

How does sibling rivalry develop?

- 1- Stress in your parents' marriage,
- 2- Parent/child abuse,
- 3- \_\_\_\_\_. and it isn't dealt with, one child may start taking the frustration he or she feels toward their parents out on a weaker or younger sibling.

Rivalry, strife, or abuse may be ultimately directed at someone—or something (such as an undesirable circumstance---other than the sibling; the brother or sister is often simply a **convenient target** for the release of stress and frustrations.

### **E. Selfishness/Difficulty Sharing Limited**

With little children it involves toys -stuff; the teen it is borrowing clothes.

Such situations can be constructive—helping kids learn "how to stand up for [their] rights, how to compete without being hostile, and how to resolve conflict through negotiation and compromise."

They can also be destructive, however, creating animosity and hurting the participants.

### **F. Desire for Attention**

James Dobson says:

“Quarreling and fighting provide an opportunity for [siblings] to 'capture' adult attention.







