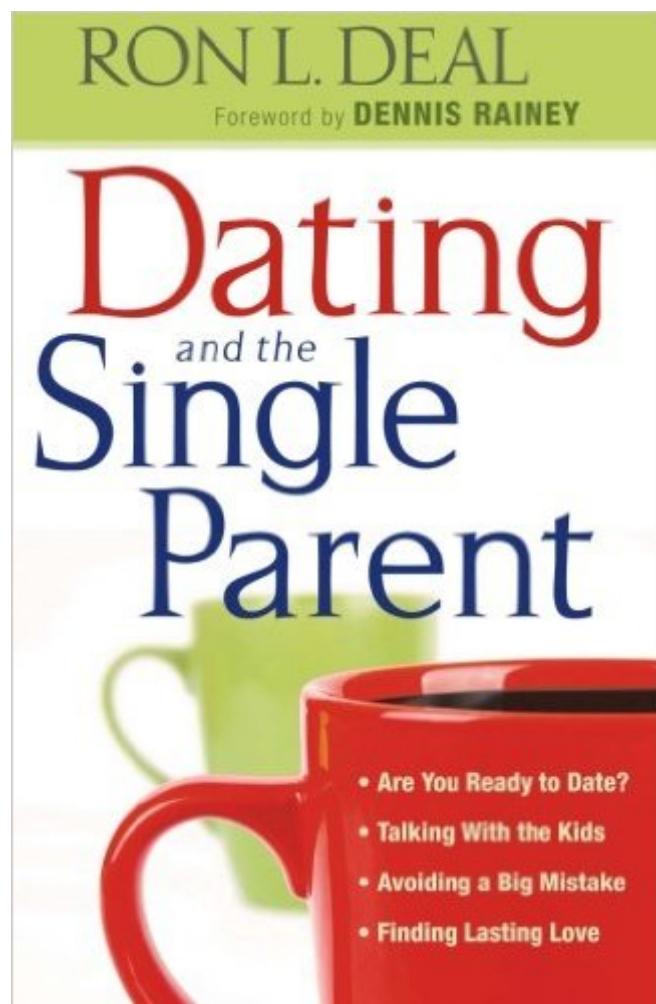


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# Dating And The Single Parent: \* Are You Ready To Date? \* Talking With The Kids \* Avoiding A Big Mistake \* Finding Lasting Love



## Synopsis

Leading stepfamily expert offers single parents a practical guide to dating, helping them make wise decisions, navigate relationships, avoid potential pitfalls, and strengthen their families.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Words cannot express how helpful this book has been to me. This book has been truly liberating. For one, the author has dispelled all my fears (which were acting as enormous pressure) that if I don't remarry, and remarry soon, my children would be lacking and worse off. Yes, an intact family is best for children, but as the author takes time to explain in this book, a blended family is not an intact family, and bringing in a step-parent is quite complicated and generally more likely to have negative effects than positive effects on the children. As the author of this book so wonderfully demonstrates, children raised in a single parent household are very likely to do better than children raised with a step-parent, emphasizing the fact that if remarriage is to be done, it absolutely must be done right. I will readily admit that the idea of "my kids desperately need a good male role model in their lives" has been one of the primary driving factors behind my desire to start dating again, even though I've known for some time that I'm really not emotionally ready to date yet, as much as I would like to be. Removing the pressure of doing this for my kids removes a lot of pressure, and frees me up to think more clearly on the topic. Secondly, the author has affirmed my approach toward building romantic relationships, which is to be quite direct in defining the relationship on a regular basis. Truly, this was awkward (and unnecessary because there should have been nothing yet to define) in high school, but I'm glad to have my approach affirmed, because I want none of the

confusion and wondering of "where do I stand?" on a nearly constant basis (and for me, it is constant).

This book is not a surface-feel-good book, but one that makes you look at yourself realistically. You can't just skim it; every page is important. He quotes a single parent who said, "we had no idea what we were getting into" ... after reading THIS book, that won't be you! The author is up front and in your face with real issues -- he asks you first of all to want God's blessing in whatever you do. He asks questions so you can avoid repeating past mistakes and discern if you are ready to be serious again. At the end of each chapter he lists discussion questions that hammer home the information, and help you to realistically look at yourself and those you are with. The author explains the difference between "coupleness" and "familyness" which will give the reader a lot to consider. Coupleness does not equal familyness and should be kept in the forefront of every meeting and activity. He will probably shock a lot of people about 'soul-mate' but what he says hits the mark; he is right-on and will save people a lot of heart-ache if they listen. I liked how he promotes involving God and His ways in every area of one's life i.e. a spiritually determined purpose in dating, everyone can learn from. Here is one of the thoughts he puts forth: "In what way is your purpose in dating blocking God's purpose for you in dating?" Like I said, he asks thought-provoking and self-examining questions only you can answer. One piece of wisdom I'll share here is when he says "marry someone, not as a replacement parent, but because you love them and believe they will help you raise your kids in the Lord.

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