

## Father's Blessing for Sons

My child: I love you. You were a blessing to me before you were even born. God Himself chose you to be a boy, and I love that about you. Your masculinity is perfect, and you were made to show the world a picture of Jesus, in relation to his church. Your manliness is not in question, nor has it been permanently corrupted. You are strong and capable. I have been watching you since the day you were born. I am your greatest fan and a dedicated student of you. I see who God made you to be, and it is wonderful. You are gifted. You are unique. You are talented. There is nobody like you!

I apologize, my son, for every time that I communicated anything less than this. For every time that I let you down, didn't show up, or was silent when I should have spoken, I ask forgiveness. For every time when I made you feel sorry for who you are, I apologize. You deserve cheering from your dad. You deserve all the counsel my years could produce. You deserve to have your hand held by a man who will protect you and lead you, and show you how to do those things... And I have not always done that. Please understand, I was wounded, myself. I have been attacked, and I have made dark agreements with the enemy who has sought to destroy me, too. And I know I've passed some of those chains to you through my actions as well as my inactivity. I did all I knew to do. Even when I was angry or short or condescending or stoic, I just did what I knew to do. That doesn't make it all right, but I need you to understand me. Please forgive me for every way I have ever failed you—and I know that I have failed you.

I wish we could go back and you could crawl up into my lap and we could just talk about nothing while I lovingly wrestle with you. I wish I could play catch with you and buy you an ice cream cone. If you'll receive it into your heart, I give you those things now. May God undo all the damage done by me; may He apply the salve of his grace on all those scars. And may you have the courage to forgive me and receive His love in all the places where my love lacked.

I give you my blessing, my son. I bless you with the strength of manhood. I bless you with the confidence that comes from knowing that you have a father who believes in you. I bless you with the radiance that comes from a pure heart that's been washed by love. I bless you with joy that lets you laugh in the presence of your enemies. I bless you with a house full of peace, patience, and goodness—led by you. You are my son, and you are my delight.

I love you.