

# A Message for My Child

Patrick Atkinson

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I can give you life,  
but I can't live it for you.

I can give you instructions,  
but I can't tell you where to go.

I can give you liberty,  
but I can't help you to protect it.

I can teach you the difference between good and bad,  
but I can't make the decision for you.

I can give you advice,  
but I can't accept it for you.

I can give you love,  
but I can't force you to receive it.

I can teach you to share,  
but I can't stop you from being selfish.

I can teach you to respect,  
but I can't make you be respected.

I can counsel you about your friends,  
but I can't choose them for you.

I can teach you everything you need to know about sex,  
but I can't make you act responsibly.

I can talk to you about drinking,  
but I can't say "no" or "just one" for you.

I can warn you about drugs,  
but I can't stop you from using them.

I can talk to you about having important goals,  
but I can't achieve them for you.

I can teach you about charity,  
but I can't make you be generous.

I can pray for you,  
but I can't make you walk with God.

I can talk to you about how to live,  
but I can't give you eternal life.

When everything is said and done, everybody decides for him or herself how they will live their life. I love you, I accept you, and I hope with all my heart that you make the right decisions.