



# *The Limits of Parenthood*

*I gave you life, but I cannot live it for you.*

*I brought you into our family, but I cannot make you love our family.*

*I can teach you things, but I cannot make you learn.*

*I can give you directions, but I cannot be there to lead you.*

*I can allow you your freedom, but I cannot make you responsible in that freedom.*

*I can take you places I value, but I cannot make you value those places.*

*I can show you right and wrong, but I cannot control your life choices.*

*I can buy you beautiful clothes, but I cannot make you beautiful inside.*

*I can offer you my advice and counsel, but I cannot make you accept it.*

*I can give you my love, but I cannot force it upon you.*

*I can talk with you about life, but I cannot make you listen and heed my words.*

*I can teach you about respect, but I cannot force you to show honor.*

*I can tell you about friendship, but I cannot choose your friends for you.*

*I can talk with you about sexuality, but I cannot make choices for your body.*

*I can discuss drugs & alcohol with you, but I cannot stop you from using them.*

*I can model kindness, but I cannot force you to be kind and gracious.*

*I can caution you about behavior, but I cannot make you moral.*

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