



KIDS' PLACE

'I will always love you'

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It all started one day when I was about ten. My mom wouldn't let me leave the house, and I was feeling sorry for myself. I was angry, too. Why couldn't I just do what I wanted? It didn't seem fair.

I was so mad that I wasn't really thinking. And as my mom walked past me down the hallway, I did the first thing that came to mind. I tried to kick her. I missed, but I knew that she knew what I'd tried to do.

"I'm in big trouble now," I thought. "She'll be too angry to forgive me. She'll send me away—maybe even to an orphanage! No mother could ever love a son who tried to kick her."

The next thing I remember was feeling my mom's firm grip on my arm as I was led down the hallway to my room. I had no idea what kind of punishment she was planning, but I wasn't going down without a fight. "You're not the boss of me anymore!" I cried, trying to pull away from her.

When we got to my room, the struggle turned into a kind of wrestling match, and I found myself being gently pinned to the bed in what was almost a big hug. This was not what I was expecting! I was strong for my age, but my mother's love was even stronger. Soon one of us began to giggle, and then we were both laughing and crying at the same time. I didn't feel angry anymore. And I think we both felt a little silly.

We talked for a while about what had happened and then she said something that really surprised me. "I have something important to tell you," she said. "There is *nothing* you could do to me that could ever make me hate you. I am your mother, and that means I will always love you."

I didn't know what to say. I had tried to kick my mom and fight her. I'd even said some mean things to her. But instead of being angry, she had forgiven me.

My mom and I didn't get along perfectly after that, but we did get along better. I think that's because after that day I started to really understand just how much she and my dad loved me.

The important thing about the love that I felt from my mom that day is that it comes from God, who is the Father and Mother of everyone. And God, or Love, never runs out or gets tired. It doesn't change if you're good or bad, happy or grumpy, nice or mean. Love just keeps on loving. Always. No matter what.

That's the kind of Parent God is. A Father-Mother with a love for you that's so big and powerful that it even makes you want to change for the better. A love that helps you live and act in a way that fits with how God sees and knows you—as the reflection of divine Love.

The words I heard from my mom that day really changed me. Her love made me want to be good—to be the son she loved and was proud of. And that love comforted me in the times when I wasn't at my best—and then felt sorry about it. In just the same way, God's love is there to comfort and help you. Even if you make a mistake, you can listen for God's voice, saying, "I am your Father-Mother. And that means I will always love you."

