

DOES DIVORCE HURT BOYS WORSE

Curiously it probably does not hurt them worse BUT they tend not to recover nearly so well as girls. There are a number of studies to try and figure out why. Some of them are very interesting.

One study shows that on any given day parents tell their boys “NO” five times as often as girls. This could be subconsciously blaming all males for the pain of the divorce OR it could be just that boys are more active. What is important is the second part of the study. When we do tell boys no we tend not to give them explanations or comfort. These are two things the child of divorce NEEDS ... even if he is a boy.

Other studies show that male children of divorce tend to lose almost ten years off their normal lifespan. (Four times as bad as for girls). The root cause is probably emotional distress which in boys is much more likely to result in attitudes and addictions. No studies that I know of are being done on the value of explanations and comfort for the male children of divorce. We tend not to address their emotions nearly so well as for girls.

Personally I think the problem may be as simple as telling them what we and God expect of them.

BLESSING FOR A BOY

Father, bless this male child, this one who is becoming a man. Fix his eyes on Christ, his mind on Scripture. Bind his hands to helping others. Make his spirit strong and his heart tender. Anchor his feet in the world we cannot see and let his daily prayer be: “On earth as it is in heaven.” Bless him with a vision of who you are for WITHOUT THIS VISION HE CANNOT KNOW WHAT MEN ARE MEANT TO BE AND DO.

I will instruct thee and teach thee Psalm 32:8