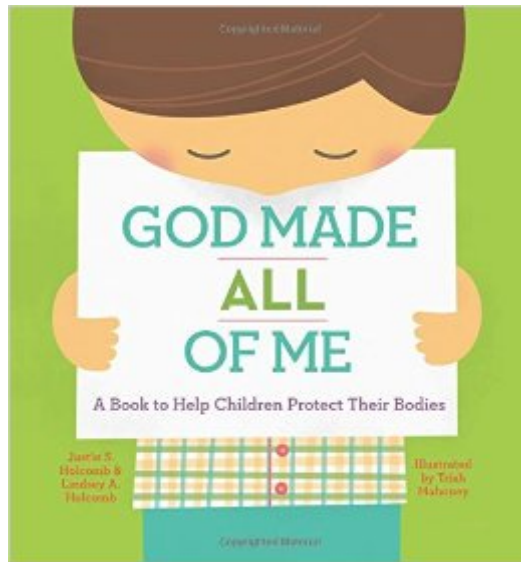


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# God Made All Of Me: A Book To Help Children Protect Their Bodies



## Synopsis

God Made Every Part of You! It's easy to convey the message to children that their bodies or particular parts of their bodies are shameful. This misconception fuels confusion, embarrassment, and secrecy, and often prevents children from recognizing or reporting sexual abuse. God Made All of Me is a simply-told, beautifully-illustrated story to help families talk about these sensitive issues with two- to eight-year-old children. Because the private parts of our bodies are private, the home is the ideal environment where a child should learn about his or her body and how it should be treated by others. God Made All of Me starts from the fundamental truth that God created everything and applies that truth to kids and their bodies. It equips parents to talk with both boys and girls about their bodies and to help them understand the difference between the appropriate and inappropriate touch of others. God Made All of Me allows families to build a first line of defense against sexual abuse in the safety of their own homes. God Made All of Me is the first children's book written by Rid of My Disgrace authors Justin and Lindsey Holcomb. Parents of young children themselves, the Holcombs regularly counsel victims of sexual abuse and are profoundly aware of the dangers kids face. Their simple and relatable story, designed to help children protect their bodies, will be an important resource for every family with young children. Simple, relatable story for two- to eight-year-old children, designed to help them protect their bodies. Includes colorful, age-appropriate illustrations. Conveys a clear message that God made every part of the human body and that every part is, therefore, good (the doctrine of creation.) Gently opens the conversation about sexual abuse that every family needs to have. Facilitates open conversations about appropriate and inappropriate touch. Overcomes confusion, secrecy, and embarrassment about bodies with truth.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I say this delicately, because this is an important book about a vital topic...in its current state, this is not a book to give your kids. We thought the middle - the parts geared for children - were very well done. But with the beginning and ending aimed at adults, it's not something I felt we could just leave around the house. My kids aren't ready for child abuse statistics, and I would venture not many between 2 and 8 are. The message in the center of the book? YES. Helping a child grasp the number of sexual assaults when they can scarcely do math? NO. This means we have to be purposeful and careful with the content. We have to keep the prying eyes of our 8 year old from seeing things that would cause her to ask questions in front of her 3 year old brother that he certainly couldn't handle. It just makes it awkward and hard to manage, and that's a shame. I wish there was a totally kid friendly version and an adult workbook. I would pay extra for two items, because this is important. I also hope Mr. Holcomb will continue to write and share his heart for this issue. May God bless his ministry!

Like all little boys between the ages of two and five, my son is fascinated with his boy parts. At least, I think he's fascinated, considering how he runs around without his pants on. Maybe he just likes to gross out his sisters. My son's boy-ness aside, from a very early age, we've tried to instill an understanding of the importance of keeping one's parts to oneself. We've taught them proper names - sometimes with embarrassing results at family gatherings - and told them that if anyone ever asks them to keep a secret, or touches them in a place they shouldn't or just makes them uncomfortable (even if it's in a way they don't understand), they need to come tell us right away. The sad reality is far too many kids don't get taught these things. And many will experience some form of sexual abuse within their lifetime. Some stats show that as many as one in five have been or will be abused by the time they turn 18. I know some of them. And Lord willing, my kids will not be counted among them. But many parents don't know where to start. In our province (think "State," American friends), our government is trying to meet the need with an updated sex-and-health education curriculum in public schools that, while it has some helpful elements, appears to leave children at greater risk for grooming by a sexual predator than informed about the real risks that exist. This same controversial curriculum has seen many parents - notably those of a Roman

Catholic background. I'm protesting, failing to offer an alternative beyond leaving it up to the parents. And it's in the hands of pro-active parents that I want to put a copy of *God Made All of Me* by Justin and Lindsey Holcomb. The Holcombs, who've already written two exceptional but difficult to read books on sexual abuse and domestic violence, have taken a different approach with this book. They're giving parents a tool with which to teach their kids about their private parts, consent, and what to do if they need help. Two key points they raise in the book center around removing shame and giving control to children: "God made every part of you and God called every part of your body good. Some parts of your body are for sharing and some parts are not for sharing." They write (14). And, "It's OK to say no because we don't always want to be touched even if it's by someone you love. If the person doesn't listen to you, ask for help right away." (17). What makes these two stand out is how they counteract the lies that creep in through the words and actions of abusers. For a child to feel as though they are in control of their own body—that they have the right to say no to any sort of unwanted affection—is a wonderful gift, and something we've strived to instill in our own children. Our middle daughter, for example, hates kisses (unless they're on the top of her head). So we don't give her kisses on the cheek, and even when we do give a kiss on the top of her head, it's only with her consent. With all of our kids, we've let them know that they can refuse hugs at any time, and especially because our girls are getting older (one is getting awfully close to being a tween), we're making sure they know that mom and dad respect their privacy, just as we expect them to respect ours. So in many ways, this book was an encouragement for me that we're already on the right track—and although sometimes the kids will say things we don't expect in a restaurant or at a family gathering, I'll take a bit of embarrassment over them not having any understanding of their body any day. And that brings me to the one concern I have, which isn't so much with the book itself as its audience. I wonder if, because of the subject matter, and because so many parents seem either afraid to use proper names for body parts with kids, or believe it's inappropriate for those names to be known, that they'll overlook the book entirely. Worse, I wonder how many will assume that, because the book itself is illustrated in a wonderfully child-friendly style (Trish Mahoney does wonderful work, by the way), they'll assume it's a book for their kids, but not one for the family to actually read and discuss together. In fact, as my wife and I sat down to read it, she initially made this assumption, too. It was only after we started reading that it clicked. So parents just need to be aware: this is really a book for you, a teaching tool to use with your kids. Just don't make the mistake of filing it next to

The Jellybeans or Elephant and Piggie. Regardless, I would highly encourage every parent to make sure a copy of God Made All of Me is in your home. Read it with your spouse. Work on a plan to read and discuss it with your kids. Protect their innocence by giving them wisdom.

To my knowledge, God Made All Of Me is a singular and unique book: A book written to help children protect themselves from sexual assault and abuse from a distinctly Christian perspective. The Biblical doctrines of creation (God made all things good) and protection (It's ok to say no) are written at an accessible level for children to understand appropriate and inappropriate touch. One of the central lines to the book is: "God made every part of your body and God called every part of your body good. Some parts of your body are for sharing and some parts are not for sharing." Children are encouraged to clearly say No when they do not want to be touched. Additionally, the private parts are defined by bathing suit and underwear lines – a helpful starting point that's easy for kids to understand. Even Grandma gets told No with confidence to illustrate saying No to kisses (unwanted touch), even to family members. Clear language about body parts and names are used, with good justification which the authors explain in the back. The introduction and final remarks aim to equip parents (and all involved with caring for children) with clear facts about sexual abuse and clear, simple steps to help protect their children. God Made All Of Me is timely and helpful. I would recommend all parents have this and read through it with their kids. It may not take precedence over Curious George, but it wasn't designed to. It's aimed to equip our children against real threats to their safety, without making them fearful of everybody. The aim is to equip children, not scare them. In this way, it not only uses Christian categories, but illustrates sober Christian grace.

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