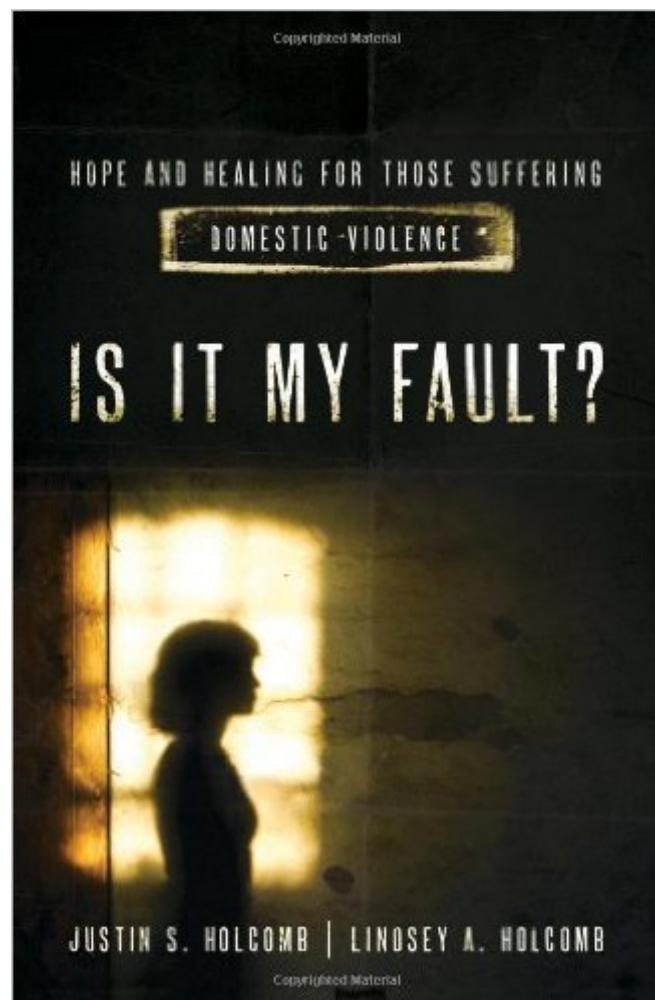


The book was found

Is It My Fault?: Hope And Healing For Those Suffering Domestic Violence.



Synopsis

Is It My Fault? is a message of hope and healing to victims who know too well the depths of destruction and the overwhelming reality of domestic violence. At least one in every three women have been beaten, coerced into sex, or abused in their lifetime. The effects of domestic violence are physical, social, emotional, psychological, and spiritual, and can have long-lasting distressing consequences. It is common for victims of domestic violence to suffer from ongoing depression and recurring nightmares, self-harm, panic attacks, substance abuse, and more. Is It My Fault? addresses the abysmal issue of domestic violence with the powerful and transforming biblical message of grace and redemption. It deals with this devastating problem and sin honestly and directly without hiding its prevalence today.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

As we sat in the school auditorium where our church meets, I could feel my wife seething beside me. Our pastor had come to a crucial text in one of the gospelsâ "Jesusâ™ teaching on divorce. As we listened to our pastor strongly (and faithfully) teach on what the Bible says about marriage and divorce, Emily became increasingly agitated. Not because of anything that was said, but what hadnâ™t been: what about women who are being abused? To many, the Bibleâ™s teaching on divorce seems too simplistic to deal with these issues. Bad counsel based on incomplete teaching leaves many women (and men) feeling trapped, with nowhere to turn when their spouses begin to spiritually, psychologically, physically or sexually abuse them. When the abuse somehow becomes

their fault in the counselling session, or they're too ashamed to even say anything at all "or don't even know if it counts. •Emily's anger was birthed from experiences of these feelings in both her childhood and adolescent years, and her empathy for several friends who have experienced abuse in their marriages. If we're to offer any sort of hope and encouragement to those suffering from domestic violence, we need to know what the Bible has to say to them. This is why books like *Is It My Fault?* are so necessary. From its opening pages, Justin and Lindsey Holcomb offer a compassionate and biblical look at the problem of domestic violence, beginning with five words victims need to hear: It is never your fault. "No matter what kind of abuse you have experienced, there is nothing you can do, nothing you can say, nothing you think that makes you deserving of it. There is no mistake you could have made and no sin you could have committed to make you deserving of violence." You did not deserve this.

Domestic violence (DV) is a difficult subject and one that is often misunderstood. Consequently, victims may not realize that what is happening to them is abuse. Also well-intentioned but uninformed counsel may re-victimize those already hurting. "*Is It My Fault?*" brings this topic to light for the victim and those who would help her. To give a brief overview, this book is divided into three sections: Part 1 - What is Domestic Violence? - This section lays the groundwork by defining DV and its extent. Contrary to what many may think, abuse is not just physical. Neither is it a relational issue but one of control. [21]"Domestic violence is a pattern of coercive, controlling, or abusive behavior that is used by one individual to gain or maintain power and control over another individual in the context of an intimate relationship. This includes any behaviors that frighten, intimidate, terrorize, exploit, manipulate, hurt, humiliate, blame, injure or wound an intimate partner." [57] Part 2 - Women, Domestic Violence, and the Bible - Does God care about women? Does He demand that a woman remain in an abusive situation and suffer for His sake? The authors go back to the Scriptures to find the answers to these questions and others. They expose how the Bible can be misused and also clearly show that God is a deliverer who desires healing and wholeness for the oppressed. Part 3 - Reflections from the Psalms - The authors take three Psalms and walk the reader through the Psalmist's struggles and suffering. They don't respond with Christian cliches or make light of a victim's pain. The desire for justice is not minimized either. But these Psalms provide a way for the victim to pray and cry out to God in her distress.

How people use language is of vital importance in the field of abuse and violence. I'm sorry to say that despite their good intentions, the Holcomb's seem to not be aware of how write about domestic

abuse in a way which does not dishonour, belittle or blame victims. There are some good aspects of this book. The authors do not see domestic abuse as a 'relationship problem' (unlike most Christians who write on this topic!) Nor do they waste time on pushing the forgiveness barrow; they never push couple counseling or 'reconciliation' or talk mushily about 'redeeming' such and such. They get the gender stuff right – recognising that some victims are male, they nevertheless write to and for the overwhelming majority of victims who are women, and whose abusers are men. The scriptural principle of fleeing abuse & escaping from persecution is well handled. The authors put the victim's safety first. They show how Psalms 18 and 55 relate to domestic abuse. They help the reader who is unsure whether she is being abused. Why some women stay, and the resistance of abused women are addressed reasonably well. And encourage the victim to trust herself more. But there are bad aspects of this book which in my opinion outweigh the good points. Their teaching on the permissibility of divorce for abuse is very wishywashy; I believe it will hurt or confuse many victims of abuse. The authors use the terms 'violence' and 'physical abuse' too frequently and thus fail to adequately do away with the myth that abuse is equated to violence – and if there's no violence, it's not really abuse. Their discussion of suffering and what Jesus substitutionally bore on our behalf is a doctrinally muddled mess and will trigger many victims, making them feel like they are being blamed for the abuse.

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