



2003

Growing Up: Gospel Answers about Maturation and Sex.

Donna Cardon

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Wilcox, Brad. *Growing Up: Gospel Answers about Maturation and Sex*. Illustrated by Nathan Pinnock. Bookcraft, 2000. ISBN 157345821. \$10.95. 132 pp.

Reviewer: Donna Cardon

Reading Level: Young adult

Rating: Outstanding

Genre: nonfiction;

Subject: Sex—Religious Aspects—Mormon Church—Juvenile literature; Sexual ethics—Juvenile literature; Books—Reviews;

Books about maturation are often controversial. This new offering by well-known Latter-day Saint author Brad Wilcox mixes factual information with heavy doses of LDS doctrine and philosophy. Wilcox discusses prenatal development, social, spiritual and mental growth, male and female maturation, love and sex, pornography, masturbation and sexual harassment. He also includes preliminary notes to parents and kids.

Members of the LDS culture will find this a valuable resource. Wilcox treats difficult topics with candor and in a voice that will appeal to youth. He uses correct scientific terminology throughout, but also mentions common slang terms. Not all sections may be appropriate for the younger range of his target audience.

Except for a few anatomical drawings of male and female sex organs, the black and white pencil illustrations are weak and detract from the effectiveness of the text. Because Wilcox frequently discusses LDS culture and doctrine, this book would be confusing and of little use to those not of the LDS faith.