



The Evangelical Covenant Church



Show Notes for  
Embrace Webinar #10

## Race, Sexuality, and Intersectionality

with Branden S. Polk

### Webinar summary:

Counselor, coach, and consultant Branden S. Polk answers questions on the intersections of faith, race, and sexuality. He speaks from personal experience as well as historical understanding as he answers questions about intersectionality, the journey of LGBT+ Black people in the church, and how our cultural backgrounds can be a source of empowerment. Full webinar and resources available at

<https://covchurch.org/embrace/webinar-10/>

### Key takeaways and timestamps from the webinar:

(5:04-7:55): Branden's **faith journey** in the Black Baptist tradition.

(8:05-15:50): Branden's **journey with race**: learning advocacy from his mother and learning to enter different race spaces with language and body language. This has empowered him to become a bridge builder and to have non-vitriolic conversations with others about race.

(16:07-20:42): Branden's journey with sexuality and **identifying as a disciple of Jesus**.

(21:15-26:30): **Rather than retreat** from conversations on the intersections of faith, race, and sexuality, we need to grow in cultural, academic, and relational competencies. This



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will help us to make disciples of all ethnicities and love others well across many categories of difference.

**(26:30-31:52):** The journey of LGBT+ Black and Brown people is more difficult because of community factors (access to resources). For example, the number of people contracting HIV/AIDS has decreased *except* for communities of color. 1 in 4 gay Latino men contract HIV/AIDS while 1 in 2 gay Black men contract it.

**(31:53-40:19):** The **Black church** can do a better job of understanding and loving LGBT+ people well.

**(45:00-52:00):** Our cultural backgrounds can be a source of **empowerment** on our faith journey, helping us to facilitate conversations on both race and sexuality. In the process, we can help the entire body of Christ to grow in Christlikeness.

Resources mentioned:

[Arrowhead Advising](#) includes link to Branden Polk's blog