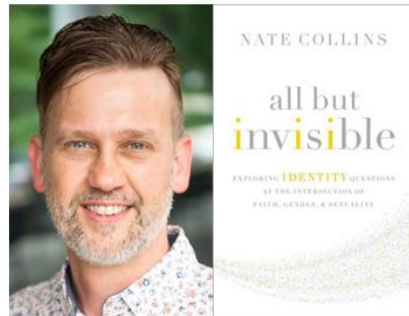




The Evangelical Covenant Church



Show Notes for
Embrace Webinar #6

The Joys and Challenges of Mixed-Orientation Marriage

with Nate and Sara Collins

Webinar summary:

Nate Collins is the founder and president of [Revoice](https://revoice.org). His wife Sara is a licensed marriage and family therapist. Nate and Sara tell of their joys and challenges of being in a mixed-orientation marriage for 15 years and offer their insights about discerning a call to a mixed-orientation marriage. Full webinar and resource available at

<https://covchurch.org/embrace/webinar-6/>

Key takeaways and timestamps from webinar:

(7:59-8:25): What is a mixed-orientation marriage? A marriage between partners of differing sexual orientations.

(9:40-20:00): Nate tells his story of **same-sex attraction as well as his call to marriage** within a traditional Christian sexual ethic.

(20:54-24:43): Marriage did not change Nate's orientation. Nate is neither bi-sexual nor straight. Nate says that while he still has a gay orientation, he also has experienced a "one-woman orientation" toward his wife Sara.



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(29:11-34:14; 38:50-41:39): Nate and Sara reflect on 15 years in a mixed-orientation marriage: **joys** (marital friendship and having children) and **challenges** (homophobia within the church and lack of acceptance by both conservatives and progressives).

(34:38-38:29): **Blinds spots within the church** that marginalize gender and sexual minorities, including the elevation of marriage as the ultimate intimate relationship as well as the privileging of nuclear families.

(42:26-48:35; 58:05-1:01:13): A call to a mixed-orientation marriage needs to be discerned by both partners. The path toward discernment includes the same-sex attracted person disclosing their orientation before engagement and both partners accepting oneself and the other, including their orientation.

(48:36-54:12): **Mixed-orientation marriages are not prescriptive.** There is a history of mixed-orientation marriages not working because of the faulty assumption that marriage will cause or lead to sexual orientation change. Such an expectation is not realistic.

(58:33-56:45): **Advice for those in mixed-orientation marriage:** pursue intimacy with Christ and costly obedience in following Christ.

Resources:

[All But Invisible: Exploring Identity Questions at the Intersection of Faith, Gender, and Sexuality](#) by Nate Collins

[An Impossible Marriage: What Our Mixed-Orientation Marriage Has Taught Us About Love and the Gospel](#) by Laurie and Matt Krieg