



The Evangelical Covenant Church



Show Notes for
Embrace Webinar #8

Tough Talks on Sexuality in Urban Contexts

with William Mack

Webinar summary:

William Mack equips and encourages pastors and parents/caregivers to have relevant, ongoing conversations about sexuality with youth in urban contexts. Rev. Mack provides practical insights from his experience as a certified sexual health specialist, a Covenant pastor, and Director of Pastoral Care with Rooted Ministries. Full webinar and resource available at <https://covchurch.org/embrace/webinar-8/>

Key takeaways and timestamps from webinar:

(10:16-13:00): William tells his **journey** from serving in youth corrections to becoming a certified sexual health community educator and urban pastor.

(13:00-16:00): The pastoral community is called to lean into conversations on human sexuality because **“we don’t just pastor a church, we pastor a community.”**

(21:56-24:50): Examples of **how to use contemporary media to catapult conversations on sexual ethics** (like Lil Wayne “How to Love” and Lyfe Jennings “S.E.X.”).

(24:51-29:29): Understand the stage of the development of the child to have **age-appropriate, ongoing conversations about human sexuality.**



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(29:30-33:57): Counsel to parents/caregivers whose child is sexually active or identifies as LGBTQ+: 1. **Understand you didn't fail** -- failing is when you reject your child rather than responding in a way that communicates God's love and yours; 2. If you fail to respond in love the first time, **you can always make things right**; 3. Remember **sexuality is not the totality of your child's humanity**. God has entrusted this child to you, and your responsibility is to lovingly cultivate wholeness in every dimension of life.

(34:50-38:24): The Church can learn from the urban context in numerous ways, including with regard to engagement around human sexuality.

(38:25-41:56): Every child needs trusted adults to connect with in addition to their parents/caregivers. The goal is to have a **support network ("family wheel")**.

(41:57-44:53): **Craft conversations** on human sexuality with children **recognizing the difference** between your generation's world (what was normative when you were growing up) and what is normative in your child's world.