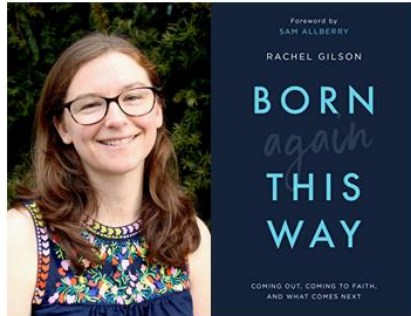




The Evangelical Covenant Church



Show Notes for  
Embrace Webinar #16

**Born Again This Way:  
Coming Out, Coming to  
Faith, and What Comes Next**  
*with Rachel Gilson*

#### Embrace webinar #16 summary:

Rachel Gilson, author of *Born Again This Way*, shares insights for her book, which combines personal stories and practical theology. She speaks to the vertical and horizontal dimensions of our sexuality. As a same-sex attracted Christian who did not grow up in the church, she winsomely speaks to Jesus' grace and truth. As a leader with Cru's Theological Development and Culture team, she provides theological reflections which apply to all Christians. Full webinar and resources available at

<https://covchurch.org/embrace/webinar-16/>

#### Key takeaways and timestamps from webinar:

(7:01-14:10): Rachel gives a brief synopsis of her **story**: from growing up in a non-Christian home, being committed to intellectual atheism, and desiring to marry a woman to beginning to wonder about the existence of God, studying the Bible, and following Jesus.

(16:27-23:05): Rachel reflects, "In the garden, God didn't make his first rule self-evident. And I think he didn't do that for a reason: so that we would trust him, and not in our own understanding or execution of a rule."

(23:06-26:07): Rachel concluded she could trust God "because in Christ he had proven himself trustworthy."



## The Evangelical Covenant Church

**(26:29-36:09): Sex is social** and our “private” sexual decisions affect one another. In the Body of Christ, we need to lead with grace and lovingly speak truth, holding everyone accountable to God’s sexual standard.

**(36:10-39:37):** Not growing up in the church, Rachel had zero Christian baggage when sorting out her sexuality. For people who grew up in the church, she speaks to the **terror and shame of being same-sex attracted** and the **harmful messages of purity culture**.

**(40:00-44:10): Same-sex attraction for women differs from that of men.** In general, men tend to know if they are same-sex attracted at a much earlier age than women. Men typically discover same-sex attraction between 5-7 and women between early-teen to twenties.

**(44:11-49:10): God’s design for marriage is to explain the gospel.**

**(49:17-52:03):** The **unexpected ministry** of same-sex believers in this cultural moment is to demonstrate the beauty of Jesus, which is worth costly obedience.

Selected resources mentioned:

[Born Again this Way: Coming Out, Coming to Faith, and What Comes Next](#) By Rachel Gilson