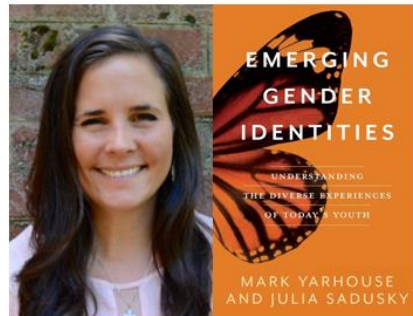




The Evangelical Covenant Church



Show Notes for
Embrace Webinar #20

Emerging Gender Identities: Understanding the Diverse Experiences of Today's Youth with Dr. Julia Sadusky

Embrace webinar #20 summary:

This webinar features Dr. Julia Sadusky, co-author of *Emerging Gender Identities: Understanding the Diverse Experiences of Today's Youth*. Dr. Sadusky combines her youth worker and clinical psychologist experience to provide greater understanding of emerging gender identities and to offer wise responses to youth workers' and parents' questions. Full webinar and resources available at <https://covchurch.org/embrace/webinar-20/>

Key takeaways and timestamps from webinar:

(2:53-5:45): Dr. Sadusky and Dr. Mark Yarhouse co-authored *Emerging Gender Identities* for Christians 1. to better understand the diverse experiences of today's youth from a psychological framework, and 2. to be better equipped in relating with youth exploring questions about gender identity.

(6:05-9:10): Dr. Sadusky defines and differentiates biological sex, gender, and gender identities. **Gender** is the psychological and social aspects of being male or female. **Gender identity** is how people experience themselves as male and female. Over the past decade, new categories have emerged for gender identities (gender fluid, gender expansive, etc.)

(12:15-16:30): As young people are exposed to emerging gender identities, Dr. Sadusky invites parents and church leaders to help young people be **critical engagers of culture**. For example, helping youth discern protecting vulnerable populations aligns with God's



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call to love mercy and do justice, and moral relativism can lead to negative consequences that don't align with loving God and neighbor.

(18:52-22:28): There is a continuum of options for **managing the distress of gender dysphoria** beyond medical strategies (e.g., adaptive coping, spiritual practices, changes in presentation, name/pronoun). It's important to meet people where they are to shepherd well. These questions can help: What have you tried? What has helped? What hasn't?

(25:21-27:13): Dr. Sadusky uses the **name/pronoun a person uses** rather than the name/pronoun a person was born with as a gesture of hospitality in order to meet people where they are.

(27:44-54:42): Advice for youth workers and parents to create healthy relationships with youth navigating questions about gender identity, including

- how to make youth group gatherings hospitable spaces (27:44-31:28);
- how to build a relationship that makes room for disagreement (31:28-34:47);
- the need to challenge gender stereotypes and to relate to one another as beloved children of God (34:48-37:44; 43:52-47:15);
- parents of children who come out need community to process their gut reaction and who will encourage parents to love well for the long haul (51:00-54:42).

Select resources mentioned:

[Emerging Gender Identities](#) by Mark Yarhouse and Julia Sadusky