



The Evangelical Covenant Church



Show Notes for  
Embrace Webinar #23

**Still Time to Care**  
with Greg Johnson

### Embrace webinar #23 summary:

Greg Johnson, a gay atheist turned Christian pastor, tells the untold story of the rise and fall of the ex-gay movement in the evangelical church in this webinar and in his book, *Still Time to Care: What We Can Learn from the Church's Failed Attempt to Cure Homosexuality*. Full webinar and resources available at <https://covchurch.org/embrace/webinar-23/>

### Key takeaways and timestamps from webinar:

**(3:10-5:55):** Greg wrote *Still Time to Care* to tell how Christians have interacted with gay people over the past 50 years both under the **paradigms of care and cure**. The paradigm of care distinguishes between a gay person's sexual orientation and sexual ethic. The focus is not on curing homosexuality but on caring for people. It affirms someone can be gay and a Christian. The paradigm of cure believes orientation change is possible and you cannot be gay and a Christian.

**(7:00-12:25):** Greg tells of his **journey** of identifying as gay, converting to Christianity, experiencing the ex-gay movement, and being called to pastor a church for 28 years.

**(12:42-16:44):** The **paradigm of care pre-dated the ex-gay movement** and assumes that orientation will not change for most, so the church needs to be a family for non-straight people who follow Jesus.



## The Evangelical Covenant Church

**(16:57-21:06): C.S. Lewis' first and best friend Arthur was gay.** With Arthur, Lewis held to a traditional Christian sexual ethic and never felt he was in a position of moral superiority. Lewis advocated for decriminalizing sodomy in the UK, believing it's not the worst sin.

**(21:28-26:18): John Stott was the "architect of the paradigm of care."** John called the church to faith, hope and love. Trusting God with his standards (the historical sexual ethic) and believing that we are fully forgiven because of Jesus. Having hope that when Jesus returns all will be healed. Calling the church to repent of homophobia and be a place of familial love and intimacy for gay Christians.

**(26:32-30:40): The evangelical move from care to cure began in the late 1970s.** It was during a time when there was an emphasis on signs and wonders and when Christians began trusting psychology. In the 1970s psychologist believed homosexuality was a mental disorder that could be cured through therapy.

**(31:00-35:55): Conversion therapy** is an umbrella term for any effort to change sexual orientation and includes reparative therapy. There are 700,000 survivors of conversion/reparative therapy and only a small percentage experienced orientation change.

**(54:00-59:36): A call to care from *Homosexuality and the Church* (1978) by Richard Lovelace,** "There is another approach to homosexuality which would be healthier both for the church and for gay believers, and which could be a very significant witness to the world. This approach requires a double repentance, a repentance both for the church and for it's gay membership. First, it would require professing Christians who are gay to have the courage both to avow their orientation openly and to obey the Bible's clear injunction to turn away from the active homosexual life-style. Second, it would require the church to accept, honor and nurture nonpracticing gay believers in its membership, and ordain these to positions of leadership for ministry. The church's sponsorship of openly avowed but repentant homosexuals in leadership positions would be a profound witness to the world concerning the power of the Gospel to free the church from homophobia and the homosexual from guilt and bondage."



The Evangelical Covenant Church

Selected resource mentioned:

[Still Time to Care: What We Can Learn from the Church's Failed Attempt to Cure Homosexuality](#) by Greg Johnson