

An Uncertain Life: Growing Up Gay and Southern Baptist

Book Background: An Uncertain Life is a perfect description of the many challenges I faced, but it is also a story of resilience, overcoming, and accomplishing more than anyone, including me, thought possible.

Along my journey of faith, I came to realize that KNOWING GOD LOVES ME is a power that no one can take away. With that acknowledgment and acceptance of God's love, I was empowered to become the full person I was created to be, regardless of what anyone, family, faith community, or larger society says.

This book primarily focuses on my struggle for self-acceptance. Some names have been changed, as it is not my intent to embarrass anybody regarding my life and struggles coming to terms with being gay. But the struggle is not mine alone, nor the benefits. Everyone is a part of creation. After my own coming out, I could no longer ignore the plight of my brothers and sisters: black, gay, female, immigrant, First Nations, poor in rural America, transgender, homeless, etc. You get the picture: we are all in this together.

Biography: Charles Michael Brill retired after 30 years as a Financial Advisor. Before that he worked in Southern Baptist ministry, more than a decade. A graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University (BA), and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, (MDiv/SW), he served on non-profit boards and advocated for inclusion and non-discrimination at work and in the community.

Endorsements: Michael Brill's story is as raw as it is redemptive. With honesty and courage, he invites us into the painful, complicated journey of growing up gay in a Southern Baptist world—and the grace-filled path of becoming whole. An Uncertain Life is more than one man's memoir; it is a beacon of hope for anyone who has wrestled with faith, identity, and belonging. I was moved by its candor, inspired by its resilience, and grateful for its witness.

Eric Elnes, author, Gifts of the Dark Wood

This book is as poignant as it is timely! I spent my afternoon reading An Uncertain Life. Some parts left me teary-eyed like "Fresh-man." It leads me to hope that this work will help others not to accept blame for actions of others. I found the book fascinating & terrifying! It's spooky that aspects of the Civil Rights Movement described, remind me of the terrible things happening now and the ideology/theology behind them.

Natalia Marquez-Sterling, OTD, OTR/L, ally of the LGBTQ+ community

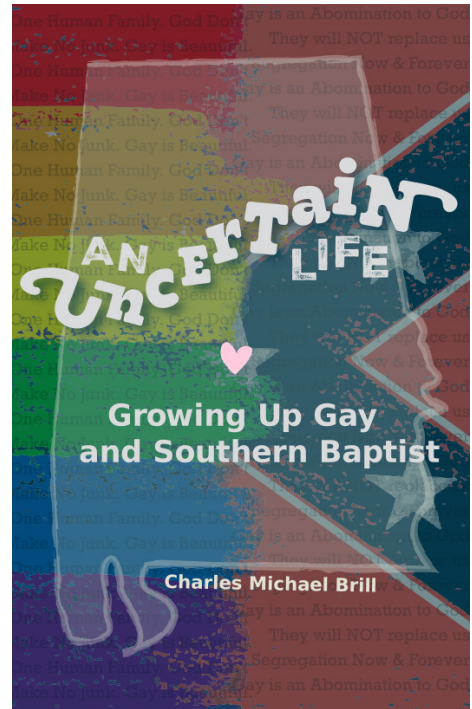
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