

I am accepted....

Cylinda Nickel

The marvelous book *Marley and Me* has been a publishing phenomenon. It was recently released as a major motion picture. John Grogan told the true story of how his family came to love a very complicated dog that misbehaved often but was filled with happiness and love.

According to Grogan, while on the set of the movie based on his book, he decided to take home one of the puppies that was playing the part of Marley. The dog's name is Woodson. Not long after they brought the dog home, they noticed that something was terribly wrong. He walked around like he was suffering from arthritis. Grogan took Woodson to the vet, and the dog was diagnosed as having a rare birth defect that causes severe malformation of the hips. The dog would never be normal.

Grogan told the breeders so they would have the crucial information, and they offered to give him another puppy and take Woodson back. After talking it over with his wife, John decided to keep Woodson and give him the medical care he needed. While he will never be normal, he will live a happy life. So, the Grogans accepted a dog that was severely mischievous and later one that was severely disabled.

Not unlike our own stories- this example reminds us of the love of God. He loves and accepts us unconditionally. How many times have we tried his patience? Rejected him, and even turned our backs on him and he is still waiting available to us. He wants us in his family, and He cares for us.

What does acceptance mean? Webster's dictionary defines it as:

An agreeing either expressly or by conduct to the act or offer of another so that a contract is concluded and the parties become legally bound.

How are we bound by Christ? He died for us- he purchased us and we became His.

“But God has made clear his love to us, in that, when we were still sinners, Christ gave his life for us.” Romans 5:8