

I am Robin Marie and this is a podcast for those who do things differently.

Have you ever felt like you had to fight to belong somewhere? Like you were out of place because you did things for everyone else?

In this first episode I share a story that's close to my heart.

Listen in

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She arrived like a blast of frost on a cold winter's day fighting for a place in our big backyard. This large grey cat with a touch of snowy white fur on her paws and neck.

My first response to this gutsy cat was to shoo her away. I thought she was a bully and anyway we already had a cat colony the size of Phoenix and had paid boo koo bucks to have them all fixed and immunized. We didn't need any more.

From the sounds of early morning cat brawls to late night scoffles on the side of our house (you're welcome neighbors) this huge grey cat was determined to stay.

She wouldn't be pushed out. She knew she belonged in this place.

Then one day I saw it. This big beautiful cat with her head down in a posture of humility waiting, just waiting as all the other cats ate their morning meal. Slowly, oh so slowly, she crept towards what remained of the food on the ground filling her hungry tummy.

I've never been an animal person (ask my counselor about that childhood trauma.)

I complained to my sweet animal loving husband almost daily. I avoided connecting or naming the plethora of felines that congregated on our patio, hoping they would go away.

And then one day it happened. It started with one little special needs cat named "Stubby" sneaking his way into my heart.

Yesterday I was met by a familiar meow. It felt right. It felt good.

Reaching down to caress this large grey cat that by the way was named “Frosty Girl” by my little grandson, I noticed something I hadn’t noticed before. She wasn’t a bully at all. She just needed to belong.

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She just needed to belong. I can relate. Can you?

I remember feeling different most of my life. Never quite fitting in. Never feeling that sense of belonging. Oh, don’t get me wrong, I had and still do have a wonderful nurturing family. But there was just something inside that felt wrong. Like a blast of frost on a cold winter's day fighting for a place in this world. I needed to know who I was. Why I felt like something was missing.

I tried doing it like everyone else but it was hard and I came out with scars that remain to this day.

Everyone gave me well meaning advice, from, “just forget the rules and do what you want” to “read this book and do these 12 steps” to “spend more time with God” I was even more confused than ever.

I like variety, just call me a la carte girl, but I wanted to find one single answer to this longing. Have you ever felt that way?

I grew up the youngest of 5 girls in a family who spent what seemed like every waking hour at church. My mother said I asked Jesus to be my good shepherd when I was 3 but I remember constantly feeling as if this good shepherd wasn’t very good.

It felt more like he was waiting for me to wander away so he could use me as his example to other sheep of what to avoid.

Ok, let’s get back to the human world and leave the animal analogies behind.

You get the picture, right?

Well, let me tell you something I’ve discovered.

I like wide open spaces. I like to run in the rain. I like to feel my hair blowing around my face, I like messy and I like clean. I was made to be different. God did it on purpose!!

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After 60 years of walking, tripping, falling into myself, I've found a God who understands me. A God full of love and grace. A God who is always there for me.

He's not the one I knew when I was a child but He is! He doesn't follow me around hoping I'll mess up so he can make an example of me.

He is GOOD!! He is Faithful! He is with me, even as I struggle to fit in and belong. I CAN trust HIM.

I don't have to be afraid of rejection because I'm different. God created me to be unique, filled with creative ways to add to a hurting world.

I love this quote by my new favorite local poet Morgan Harper Nicoles. I'll link to her website in the show notes.

<https://morganharpernichols.com/>

“O how beautifully you are learning to live a little less afraid.”

Won't you join me? Let go of what you think the world wants you to look like, act like, feel like and embrace the real you.

ONLY the ONE who made you, can define you. And He says this in his word (The Bible)

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.” ~ 2 Corinthians 5:17

Today I chose NEW not OLD. I choose LOVE not FEAR and I chose to humbly enter a world where everyone wants me to look and act just like them.

I CHOSE to CHASE DIFFERENT.

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Thanks for listening to Chasing DIFFERENT. If you'd like to know more about who I am please visit me at [www.robinmarie.org](http://www.robinmarie.org). where you'll find all the transcripts to this podcast and my kids' podcast "Different isn't Bad."

It would really help me out if you would subscribe and share this podcast with others.

Let's get the word out that being part of God's family doesn't mean we have to look and act the same, after all in the words of Oliver James;

"Why are you trying so hard to fit in when you were born to stand out?"

See you next time