

Hi, I'm Crawford Loritts with a Legacy Moment.

I'll never forget reading Frank Peretti's book *The Wounded Spirit*. I was deeply moved by his personal testimony of the painful ridicule and rejection he experienced in his teen years. He was excluded because of his lack of athletic ability and physical deformity. I must admit, as I read that book, my eyes filled with tears on many occasions. He said the thing that kept him going was first of all, a teacher who believed in him, the unconditional love and acceptance of his parents and his family, and then thirdly, the realization that Jesus Christ accepted him and didn't give up on him.

Rejection is an awful thing. Sadly, there's too much rejection even in the Christian community. Oh, we're more subtle about it than high school kids are, but sometimes our arrogant attitudes announce, “Hey, look, you can't come in this group. You're not really a part of us.” Thankfully, God doesn't treat us as if there's a pecking order, where some of us are better than others. No, there's equal access to Calvary and equal access to the heart of God.

In Ephesians chapter 3, verses 3, 4 and 6, the Apostle Paul talks about God's great plan of inclusion. He says, “That by revelation there was made known to me the mystery, as I wrote before in brief. By referring to this, when you read you can understand my insight into the mystery of Christ...to be specific, that the Gentiles are fellow heirs and fellow members of the body, and fellow partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.”

Fellow heirs, fellow members, fellow partakers—they're not excluded. No one is excluded.

Here's what I want you to remember today. If you've placed your faith in Jesus Christ, you're on the team, and you have all the rights and privileges of everybody else. You're fully accepted.