



**Mennonite
Church**
Canada

Resource Centre

From our Churches

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The Fruit Bowl War

I took a step back and looked with delight. My fruit bowl on the dining room table certainly looked nice. I had washed and polished and arranged the fruit so perfectly. I gave myself a pat on the back as I turned off the lights and went to bed.

Sometime in the night, I awoke to hear a thud and an “ouch”. In the morning I noticed that my fruit was all over the table and floor. I nearly stepped on a little grape when I called out to Mr. Dyck: “What happened? Were you into the fruit?”

“Not me.” He replied. “Perhaps it was a mouse.”

So I set a trap underneath the table and rearranged my fruit bowl.

Well, the next morning, you guessed it, the fruit was all over the place. Only the banana and an apple remained in the bowl. There were grapes everywhere. The orange had rolled all the way to the back door. (I wondered where he thought he was going.) I looked under the table but there was no evidence of a mouse.

“Mr. Dyck!” I tried to ask sweetly. “Mr. Dyck, have you been messing with my fruit?!”

“No, not me,” he replied. “Perhaps they don’t like your bowl.” He laughed thinking this was very funny. I was not amused.

So, once again, I arranged the fruit nicely in the bowl.

That night I decided to stay up and keep an eye on my fruit bowl. It was just as Mr. Dyck had said. Not only was the fruit unhappy with my bowl, the fruit was busy fighting.

“I’m the top banana around here.”

“Well, I’m the apple of her eye.”

“Hey apple, you might be all roughage but you don’t need to get rough with me.”

“We grapes might be small but we stick together.... ouch! Cut that out!” And the grapes went flying every which way.

The next day I patiently, once again, arranged my fruit bowl. I got a bigger bowl and I had a heart to heart talk with each of them.

“Apples and grapes, you belong side by side. Your red and green colours complement each other.”

“Orange, you look very nice next to the peach as you both glow together and smell so sweet.”

“And banana, everyone knows a fruit bowl would not be complete without you, but there is no need to brag about it.”

Finally, I told them: “You are all fruit. You are all the same. Why can’t you get along?” And just to make sure they got the message I sang, “Let’s give peace a chance.”

Then I sat with my morning coffee and smiled. People are a lot like fruit. We’re all different colours, shapes and sizes. We talk and act differently. Some folks like to think they’re more important. And the small guys often feel picked on. I wonder what God thinks about us when we fight and argue? Does God ask “Why can’t you get along? You’re really all the same.”

It’s true – we are all people. We are all the same. I wonder if we hear what God has to say through his son Jesus?

Today is Peace Sunday and we are called to be a peace church.

We have peace buttons to wear that say: “To remember is to work for peace.” Today, we will remember how awful war is and how fighting is wrong. We will remember that many people died and suffered, including our enemies, soldiers and innocent children and families. We will remember the fruit bowl – and that all people belong together. We will follow Jesus’ example to love our enemies and to do good to those who hurt us. We will pray for peace and we will seek peaceful ways in our own lives.