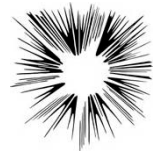




Grace Snap Shot

"Viewing life through the lens of God's grace!"



Grunting Fruit

Written by Art Henkel

Have you ever bitten into a piece of fruit anticipating a certain burst of flavor, only to find yourself disappointed? You take an orange which looks so inviting on the outside, but by the time you've removed the 4 inch peel, you're left with a small, dried out, somewhat tasteless object.

I think it's safe to say that if you've ever walked through a vineyard, you've never heard the branches grunting and groaning, trying to produce fruit. No, because the life of the vine, they simply bear fruit. As Jesus-People we understand that Christ is the vine and we are the branches. He produces His life in and through us and we simply bear the fruit of His life. As God's children we are not initiators, we are responders. We respond in faith to what Christ is initiating in us and around us.

Those who are determined to try and produce their own fruit by grunting and groaning with self effort, will be sadly disappointed in their harvest. What they produce may look very good on the outside but with closer inspection it will be found to only have the unappealing scent of flesh and the taste of sweat.