

## Marinating in God's Word: 1 Corinthians 1:1-3

You've got mail! A letter sent long ago to someone else, now by the power of the Spirit has been forwarded to you, so that you may grow in Jesus Christ.

For further reflection on your own or in a small group, consider these questions:

1 Corinthians is a letter from Paul to the Church in Corinth. What other kinds of literature are in the Bible? How does the type of literature shape the message? How does being a real letter to a specific time and place shape 1 Corinthians? How could a letter written for someone else carry a message to you?

In school most of us learn the proper form for a letter. This was the proper form for a letter in that day. What are the parts? (Hint, one part for each verse)

Who sent the letter? (Hint, verse 1) Paul dictated it, and Sosthenes wrote it out. How does Paul identify himself? How would these descriptions give authority to what he wrote? What do you think gives a Christian teacher authority?

To whom was the letter sent? (Hint, verse 2) What is a church? How about "the" church? How are these church members described? What does it mean to be sanctified? What is a saint? How are you saintly?

How did Paul greet the people? (Hint, verse 3) What is grace? What is peace? How can we best receive these gifts?

Next week we'll start a new series, focusing on 1 Corinthians. We'll read 1 Cor. 1:10-17.