

## Marinating in God's Word: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

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:

- Do you wear a cross, or have one in your home or office? Why or why not? Why do believers wear crosses? And why do some non-believers wear crosses?
- The Corinthian Church was comprised of both Gentiles, who had been shaped by the Greek culture and polytheism, and Jews, who had been shaped by the Old Testament and Judaic religious practices. In v. 23 Paul said that Jesus' crucifixion was a stumbling block (literally a scandal) to Jews, and foolishness to Gentiles. Why would Jesus' cross be offensive, and why in different ways to the different groups? Is the cross offensive today? To whom? How?
- How might we proclaim the cross of Jesus? Why would we focus on the cross and not put it in the background while focusing on the easier-to-explain parts of the story?
- Jesus went even to the place of ultimate vulnerability, the cross. Yet Paul describes the cross as "the power of God." (v. 18) What do you think he means by that?

Next week we'll focus on 1 Corinthians 2:6 - 3:4.