

Marinating in God's Word: 1 Corinthians 6:9-11

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:

- Paul was writing to new Christians. In fact, the whole church in Corinth was only about three or four years old. So he was teaching about basics of the faith, such as the Kingdom of God, sanctification, and justification. How would you describe each?
- Paul also addressed them about their behaviors. The very idea that their faith should impact their ethics and actions was new for them – at least for the Gentile majority of the congregation. Their previous pagan faith had few lifestyle implications. Why is Christianity different? Why does it matter how we live?
- Paul's lists sinful behaviors that put us apart from the Kingdom. It's not an exhaustive list – he lists other such behaviors elsewhere. But it is broad. What areas of life does he include? Why would these areas of life matter if we're already forgiven?
- Having concluded his list, Paul writes “this is what some of you used to be.” (v. 11) What does that mean for their identity? What does it mean for the possibilities of transformation in our lives? How does this run counter to our culture's messages to us about our behavior?

Next week we will focus on 1 Corinthians 6:12-20.