

Marinating in God's Word: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20

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:

- True or false (or both!): to tend your body's health, go to the doctor, and to tend your spirit's health, go to church. What do body and spirit have to do with each other?
- In ancient Corinth people valued the mind and spirit, and disdained the body. Consequently, they saw what they did with their bodies to be of little consequence, and had few ethical concerns about their bodies. How does that work in our culture? Apart from the scripture, what are we taught about the value of our bodies? What are the ethical implications, if any, of those cultural views?
- If the language about being a "temple of the Holy Spirit" (v. 19) sounds familiar, maybe it's because Paul used the same language in chapter 3. Only there he was describing not our physical bodies, but the church. In other words, we together as the church are a temple for the Spirit, AND, surprisingly, each of us, in our bodies, are the same - a temple of the Spirit! What does that tell you about your body and its value?
- What are the values that prompt people to treat their bodies in particular ways (e.g., some neglect their bodies, some obsess on their bodies, etc.)? Having read Paul's words here about our bodies, what are the implications for our body care? How might we "glorify God with our bodies" (v. 20)?

Next week we will focus on 1 Corinthians 12:12-26.