

Marinating in God's Word: 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

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:

- Think of someone who is easy to love. What makes him/her easy to love? Now think of someone who is hard to love? What makes him/her hard to love? What portion of the ease or difficulty is in them? In you?
- Paul gives fifteen descriptions of how love can and cannot work in real life. Go through the fifteen and put each in your own words. Which of the fifteen seems easiest to you? Hardest?
- In Galatians 5:22-23 Paul writes about the fruit of the Spirit. Compare that list to this list. What commonalities do you see? Usually we think of this Galatians fruit as being something we can't achieve by mere effort, but something God grows in us as we walk with Jesus. Is that true for the fifteen traits of love listed in vv 4-7?
- What role do the most difficult people in your life play in "fertilizing" this kind of growth?
- Find some Jesus stories which demonstrate the particulars of love Paul details here. With the Jesus stories in mind, which three of these fifteen love descriptions do you think he is currently working into you?

Next week we will focus on 1 Corinthians 13:8-13.