

Marinating in God's Word: 1 Corinthians 13:8-13

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:

- When you were young and growing, what measures of growth do you remember? Which were most important to you? Did you grow in stature early, late, or about on time?
- Paul begins this closing section of chapter 13 by comparing love with other things that don't last long. Whose love has had a lasting impact in your life over the years? The other things Paul cites are all good in themselves, but don't have such a lasting impact. What are some things you've sought with passion, but in retrospect found they didn't have lasting value?
- Paul mentions that "we know and prophesy only in part" (v. 9), and that "now we see in mirror dimly (v. 12)." What is he talking about? Is there value in our knowledge of the things of God, or the prophetic awareness he gives, even if only partial? How so? What freedom comes with this realistic assessment of our limits?
- In his closing verse Paul cites faith, hope, and love, and says they have abiding value. What is the value of each? And why do you suppose he describes love as the greatest of the three?

Next week we will focus on 1 Corinthians 9:19-23.