

## Marinating in God's Word: 1 Corinthians 11:2-16; 14:34-36

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:

- How did you first learn to be a man or a woman, and to view the opposite sex? What role did the church or the scripture play in this part of your formation? Why are conversations about genders often so intense with emotion?
- Paul often directed believers, who were being shaped by Kingdom of God values, in how to fit in or distinguish themselves from the kingdoms of this world. So he does in these verses with matters of gender. In vv. 4-5 he assumes that in the Kingdom of God both men and women would prophesy, but he directs them to do so in keeping with the gender customs of the day. What gender customs do you see in these verses? How do those differ from the customs in our day? In our more egalitarian culture, are there still gender customs that should shape how women and men act and minister in the church?
- In chapter 14 Paul seems to contradict what he assumes in chapter 11. In 11 he assumes women will prophesy, but in 14 he is telling them to be silent. How does this complicate scripture interpretation? Are there other passages that help you resolve this tension? How would you resolve it?
- Name a way that the Lord has grown you in your understanding of your gender and your relationship to the opposite sex. How did that happen?

Next week we will focus on 1 Corinthians 15:1-2, 54-58.