

SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

ALLELON: WEEK 6

While anyone can take time to answer these questions individually, these questions are best discussed in a group! Not in a group yet? We want you in one! Head over to southeastchristian.org to join a group in person or online, wherever you are - today!

What have been some of your experiences with forgiveness? Think of some times in your life when you needed to extend/accept forgiveness. What happened? What was that like? Is it more difficult for you to extend forgiveness or to accept it? Why?

Read Ephesians 4:31-5:2. What reason does Paul give here for us to forgive one another? How does the forgiveness we have received from Jesus motivate us to be more forgiving? How have all of these "Allelon" commands come back to the example of Christ?

What are some of the reasons/excuses we give for not forgiving other people? Why do we lean on these things to keep us from forgiveness? How does Jesus' example help us overcome these obstacles? What excuses could He have given to avoid forgiving us?

Dave defined forgiveness as "releasing my right to retaliate." In what ways does forgiveness release the person who wronged us? In what ways does it release us? What negative consequences can we experience when we hold onto our right to retaliate? How can that affect our other relationships?

Read Matthew 6:12, 14-15. Jesus here ties the forgiveness we give with the forgiveness we will receive. What are some words you would use to describe the ways you forgive others? What would it look like if Jesus extended His forgiveness in the same way? On the flipside, what are some words you would use to describe the way Jesus forgives? What would it look like if you extended forgiveness the way He does?

Read Romans 12:17-21. How does this passage tell us to treat people who have wronged us? Do you find it difficult to live this way? Why or why not? How does an unwillingness to forgive reveal our lack of trust in God's forgiveness/justice?