

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

The following questions help us engage with the sermon, music, and liturgy in this morning's worship service, and may be useful during personal devotions, group studies, and family worship.

1. How and why does Paul ground the command to forgive in the fact that "God in Christ forgave you" (4:32)?
2. In what sense do believers imitate God because they are His beloved children, not to become His children (5:1)?
3. Why does Paul present kindness, tenderheartedness, and forgiveness as practices for the whole body of Christ rather than your innate good qualities that you think highly of?
4. How does Christ's "fragrant offering and sacrifice" (5:2) fulfill the Old Testament covenant pattern, and what does this mean to the church today? To you today?
5. What does God's costly act of forgiveness in Christ teach us about the cost and pattern of forgiving others?
6. Who in your life has yet to receive your forgiveness even if they will never ask for it? Have you fully settled this in your heart so that you can live freely from any related burdens? If not, how and how soon can you do this?
7. How do you live out "walking in love" (5:2) so that you live life fully?
8. Compare and contrast both sides of the Forgiveness/Reconciliation table below. Discuss the differences between forgiveness and reconciliation.

Forgiveness (Event) <i>One on One Grace Given by the Offended Person</i>	Reconciliation (Process) <i>Reciprocal Renovation with Repentance and Shared Change</i>
Begins with prayer	Nurtured by prayer
External, words face to face	Internal, bringing hearts back together
Cancel the offense, void the grudge	Continuing to show genuine change
Personal promise before the Lord to release bitterness	Rebuilding trust over time
Fully forgiving a sinner as God forgave us in Christ	Fully forgiving as God forgave us in Christ while redefining the relationship for safety