

# What Is Forgiveness, Really?

Forgiveness is not the same as exoneration.  
It does not remove the guilt of the offending party.

Forgiveness is not the same as reconciliation.  
It does not necessarily restore relationship with the offending party.

Forgiveness is not the same as forgetting.  
It does not remove the memory of the offense.

Forgiveness is not the same as pardon.  
It does not remove the need for correction.

Forgiveness is not the same as responding to a request.  
It does not require a confession and request for forgiveness.

Forgiveness is not something that a person receives from another.  
It is instead something that a person gives to another.

Forgiveness is not something that a person deserves.  
It is instead something that is given freely and unconditionally.

Forgiveness has not taken place if feelings of animosity persist.  
It is instead a process of replacing animosity with compassion.

Forgiveness has not taken place if self-righteousness persists.  
It is instead regarding oneself as intrinsically no better or worse than the offender.

Forgiveness has not taken place if one feels victimized by the offender.  
It is instead realizing that all things work together for the good of those who express love.

Forgiveness is not about the forgiven.  
It is all about the forgiver.

To err is human.  
To forgive, divine.