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Forgiveness – The Necessity and the Application

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Forgiveness is tough. Someone once said that *“forgiveness is divine,”* which is probably quite close to the truth. Too often forgiveness is difficult because it’s viewed as letting someone off the hook, waving off an offense, or stating that something was not really a big deal when it was a big deal. There’s a sense in forgiveness that someone is getting away with something that they should not get away with. Forgiveness is often viewed as passive, where we’d just rather let something go than stand up, face it, and demand justice. Forgiveness has become something meekly passive rather than something that is utterly transformational.

When I am offended, how much of my mindset is based on the desire to obtain justice for the offense?

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Not Fairly Very

When someone offends me, how vulnerable do I feel?

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Not Fairly Very

To what degree do I view forgiveness as “letting someone off the hook?”

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Not Fairly Very

How hard is it to forgive myself?

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Not Fairly Very

1. What three conclusions can I draw from what I see on the graphs above?
   1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
   2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
   3. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. Based on those conclusions, what three things can I begin to do right now?
   1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
   2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
   3. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_