

Secular Approach to Forgiveness	Characteristics of this Approach	How the Gospel Challenges This Approach
Cheap Grace Approach	Cost of wrongdoing doesn't need to be acknowledged; anger is ignored/minimized; forgiveness is quickly embraced by victim to feel better; sin goes unchallenged	Grace is costly, because of the priceless nature of Jesus' sacrifice. Anger can reflect God's own heart for justice/righteousness. Forgiveness centers on Jesus, rather than ourselves. Sin is never to be tolerated/ignored.
Little Grace Approach	Forgiveness is seen as conditional and transactional; forgiveness can become means of control; victim seeks to wound perpetrator; justice is centered on the perspective of the victim	Forgiveness is never earned, but given as a gift. Jesus died because no other person could fully atone for the debt of sin. Forgiveness reflects God's love and seeks to restore wrongdoers.
No Grace Approach	Forgiveness is seen as unnecessary and unhealthy; forgiveness is refused so as not to "condone" injustice; revenge is normalized	Forgiveness is crucial due to the way it mirrors God's own reconciliation with us. Forgiveness never condones wrongdoing, but points to Jesus, who offered Himself so that we might receive grace.

For this next section, think about relationships/incidents in your own life where you have suffered at the hand of another. Which of the models above best fits your own approach to forgiveness in this scenario? For each, consider how the Gospel speaks to that situation.

Name of Person Who Wronged You	Write down your feelings, expectations, and motives toward this person	Which of the above approaches to forgiveness do you have?	How does the Gospel speak to this scenario?	How is God calling you to move forward?