

“Forgiveness”

Steven DeLay  
Wake Forest University

**Abstract.** Forgiveness is multiform. First there is the fact that, with forgiveness, sometimes the task is showing it, other times finding it. And it comes in many ways. It may come in the form of a deep yearning, as when in making amends we seek it from others. Other times it comes in the form of a duty, when as an imperative we extend it to the one who has hurt or violated us. Then there is the form of the paradox it takes, when one seeks it from one's own self. And, above all, there of course is its supreme form, God's forgiveness, which takes the form of a blessing that both assures and sustains. This paper analyzes the intentionalities of forgiveness, describing how we either expand through enacting it, or contract in refusing it. We are marked most personally by what we have or will forgive, and what we ourselves have been forgiven.