

## Beliefs about Repentance and Reconciliation in Forgiveness across World Religions

Tradition	Repentance	Reconciliation
Buddhism	Not necessary for forgiveness to occur. Forgiveness may be granted with or without apology and contrition.	Not a necessary element of forgiveness. However, reconciliation is often an outgrowth of compassion and pity felt for offender during the forgiveness process.
Christianity	Not necessary for forgiveness to occur. Forgiveness may be granted with or without apology and contrition.	Not a necessary element of forgiveness. Forgiveness may be granted with or without reconciliation with the offender.
Hinduism	Depends on each specific Hindu tradition. Forgiveness without repentance is found in the Hindu tradition (in the Goddess Sri, for example); however, these cases are used to demonstrate theological points and the great ability of Gods, not necessarily as a guideline for human behavior.	Depends on the specific Hindu tradition referenced. Many stories in the Hindu tradition emphasize reconciliation; however, each tradition has a unique understanding of reconciliation requirements.
Islam	Not necessary for forgiveness between humans. Yet, repentance is necessary for Allah to grant forgiveness to people. In this case, people must repent to be forgiven.	Not a necessary element of forgiveness. Reconciliation can be an important part of forgiveness, but is not required.
Judaism	Necessary for forgiveness to occur. Offender must repent to victim and commit to abstaining from the offense in the future. If offender expresses contrition, victim is obliged to forgive.	An important, but not required, element of forgiveness if genuine repentance is offered. An offender is encouraged to be reconciled to the victim and the community as a whole.