Should we forgive?

The days of Elul are days of Teshuba. We ask forgiveness from God, for **any ritual transgressions we might have done.** And we should **seek our peer's forgiveness** for any offenses we might have caused them.

We also need to be willing to forgive.

In Chapter 2, Halakha 10, Maimonides talks about the appropriate attitude of **the victim** of an offense. He says: *"It is forbidden for a person to be insensitive (akhzari) and refuse to be appeased… rather, when someone approaches him seeking his forgiveness, he should forgive him wholeheartedly and with a positive spirit".*
Forgiving is one of the most difficult emotional acts we might be performing in our lives, but **at the time we ask forgiveness from God**, we should be willing to forgive others as well.
Seeking revenge or even bearing a grudge is actually a Biblical prohibition. According to Maimonides, these altruistic values have had such an impact in the Jewish nation that **it became already a 'second nature', or part of the Jews present genetic makeup.** *"[forgiving is part of] the nature (darkan) of the descendants of israel and the inclination of their hearth"*
I must clarify, however, that we are referring here to **social and personal forgiveness**: when a friend, a colleague, a neighbor, etc.did something wrong to me.

Political forgiveness is a more complicated matter (I urge the reader to read this): **we have no right to forgive the perpetrators and accomplices of the Shoa** or those who **had any involvement in brutal terrorists acts in Israel** or **in the terrorist attacks of 9/11.**
Actually in this week's Persaha the Torah states clearly that some instances, **like the irrational hatred of Amaleq,** should never be forgiven or even forgotten, but constantly

remembered, lest it repeats itself.

SHABBAT SHALOM!

Candle Lighting in NYC: 6.57 PM
Shabbat Ends in NYC: 8.03 PM

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Click here to see a wonderful presentation by Rabbi Jonathan Sacks on this Perasha, about forgiveness and remembrance.
To watch and to remember: SEPTEMBER 11, memorial