

Step 8: Follow Up

(How to restore ruptured relationships)

(SERIES: 12 Steps Up; 08 of 12)

by Dr. David Foster

"For if you **forgive** men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also **forgive** you. But if you do not **forgive** men their sins, your Father will not **forgive** your sins." (Mat 6:14-15)

The 4 Kinds of People Who Wound

Those who **mean to**.

Those who **never meant to**.

Those who **don't care**.

Those who **don't know**.

How to Repair What is Broken

"The Kingdom of Heaven can be compared to a king who decided to bring his accounts up to date. In the process, one of his debtors was brought in who owed him \$10 million! He couldn't pay, so the king ordered him sold for the debt, also his wife and children and everything he had. But the man fell down before the king, his face in the dust, and said, 'Oh, sir, be patient with me and I will pay it all.' Then the king was **FILLED WITH PITY FOR HIM AND RELEASED HIM and forgave his debt.**" (Mat 18:21-27)

You must be willing to **forgive the offense**.

You must be willing to **forgo the penalty**.

What Does Forgiveness Cost?

It will cost you your **arrogance**.

"...so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, 'Lord, are you going to wash my feet?' Jesus replied, 'You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand.' 'No,' said Peter, '**YOU SHALL NEVER WASH MY FEET.**' Jesus answered, 'Unless I wash you, you have no part with me.'" (John 13:4-8)

It will cost you your **pride**.

What Does Unforgiveness Cost?

"But when the man left the king, he went to a man who owed him \$2,000 and grabbed him by the throat and demanded instant payment. The man fell down before him and begged him to give him a little time. 'Be patient and I will pay it,' he pled. But his creditor wouldn't wait. He had the man arrested and jailed until the debt would be paid in full. Then the man's friends went to the king and told him what had happened. And the king called before him the man he had forgiven and said, 'You evil-hearted wretch! Here I forgave you all that tremendous debt, just because you asked me to--**shouldn't you have mercy on others, just as I had mercy on you?**' Then the angry king sent the man to the torture chamber until he had paid every last penny due. So shall my heavenly Father do to **YOU IF YOU REFUSE TO TRULY FORGIVE YOUR BROTHERS.**" (Mat 18:28-35)

It will cost you your **friends**.

It will cost you your **freedom**.

It will cost you His **favor**.