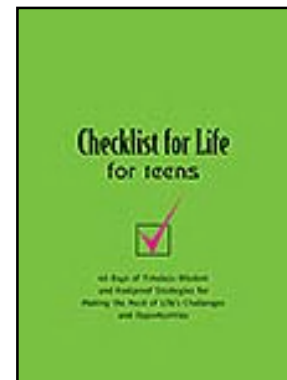


Loss, “Things Fall Apart”

Problems are part of life; and **problems sometimes result in loss** – the bigger the problem...and greater the potential for loss. The scriptures remind us (God’s believers) that *there is a way that seems right* (to man)...*but in the end it only leads to death*. The designation of “death” is to indicate that man’s plan – apart from God’s Lordship – is without any promise or potential for eternal life...

What kind of problems have you had? Were you prepared or ready for these problems – did you anticipate and plan for the problems? Most likely the answer is “no” – you neither anticipated, nor otherwise, were prepared for these problems of life. If this honest answer, **you are not alone as, many times, problems are not anticipated or planned for...**

Speaking of being honest, the first step of incurring a problem is to **acknowledge your feelings** or your reaction. A big problem has to the potential to create much loss...much hurt; and considering this outcome, the likelihood that you will experience much hurt or pain...



The *Checklist for Life* recommends that all problems be *laid at the cross* – or given to God. **Remember that God loves you** and, in his love, carries your burdens – your pain and hurt. If you consider that God is merciful and loving beyond human capability, than you may come to realize some examples or experiences where the willingness to surrender the problem is the second step (after an honest assessment) toward healing or recovery.

Homework:

Please try to do these:

- Turn to God for help...and care
- Acknowledge that you have limited – if any – control over the problem
- Be thankful or grateful for what you do have (or have not lost)
- Acknowledge your hurt before God (though God knows your hurt, to acknowledge is to admit your own awareness)
- Realize that healing is possible – and feelings of pain and hurt can dissipate
- Understand there is not instant cure

Things to Do:

- ✓ Ask God to help you *handle* the loss
- ✓ Identify the fear that you have (over the loss) and commit that to God
- ✓ Recommended reading is Psalms 16, 23, 130, and 138
- ✓ Try to devote a day to being alert of the things that you still have
- ✓ Try to write down your feelings (your loss) in a personal journal
- ✓ Try to find someone (a good listener and wise counselor) to talk to....

Loss, “Things Fall Apart”

Things to Remember:

Mark Twain said: “Nothing that grieves us (as a loss or problem) can be called little: by the eternal laws of proportion a child’s loss of a doll and a king’s loss of a crown are events of the same size.”

This statement (and fact) means that your problem (s) is still important God no matter how unimportant or insignificant it may seem to others. The losses in life – or problems that we incur – are indeed subject to the “laws of proportion”; **yet God is not so much focused on the problem as he is on the people, his creation.** God’s concern or interest is in the mind & heart of the man and, though problems arise, is focused on change that reflects his son, Christ. The experience of problems and, in turn, pain and hurt is unavoidable; **but God uses (or allows) these events to bring us closer to Him...**by faith and trust – and the realization that we do not have control over the

The first Book of Thessalonians, chapter 5 reassures us:

May God himself, the God who makes everything holy and whole, make you holy and whole, put you together—spirit, soul, and body—**and keep you fit for the coming of our Master, Jesus Christ.** The One who called you is completely dependable. If he said it, he’ll do it!