

PROBLEMS

“Houston, we have a problem” – was the famous line from Apollo 13. Problems come in many sizes and degrees from the simple to the impossible; the simple solved without much effort, and the impossible...well, unsolvable! Problems have synonyms and similar titles such as “issues”, “conflict”, “crisis”, and “catastrophes” – all of which raise levels of concern and attention.

Henry Kaiser defines a problem as an opportunity in work clothes – which would suggest that problems should be welcomed and even desired for the purpose of challenging rather than frightening or bemoaning the effort.

Problems are only opportunities in work clothes
- Henry J. Kaiser

Used frequently by one my former work mates, the quote below is so very true – there are no simply solutions to human problems because humans are complex!

For every human problem, there is a neat, simple solution; and it is always wrong

- H. L. Mencken, Mencken's Metalaw, US editor (1880 - 1956)

Please bear this quote in mind as you explore and develop relationships. Sometimes people will confuse, perplex and befuddle you with their behavior, habits, opinions and lifestyle; but that doesn't you completely right and them completely wrong... it only means that you are confused and different.

Problems begin in the earliest days of our lives and continue to the day we die. Our first problems may not be recognized or identified as problems but instead as obstacles, hindrances, or things in our way. Problems arrive in our school work – for which understanding of rules, procedures and practice render a solution...most of the time. Emotional, physical, mental, spiritual, and social problems arise in our lives though identification and resolution will depend on maturity, understanding, and host of other aspects of character and strength. Problems will invariably find us in one form or another – the questions and uncertainty is with our response, our willingness to embrace the problem rather than run from it.

Understand that some apparent solutions may be popular or even well accepted among your circle or social realm; yet the solutions may be very poor, insufficient, and lacking. I urge you to take problems to prayer if just to *bounce the problem* off of the one who is the source of wisdom; and wait patiently for direction and understanding such that the solution will be real, accepted and complete in terms of God's Lordship. Solving problems enables us to get better at solving other problems. Success or failure, the experience can be a wealth of information for character building, faith building and wisdom.

In a

WORD