

Patterns of Irresponsibility

Let's look at a couple of those Patterns:

- **We Develop a Victim Mentality**

Twenty years ago, Charles J. Sykes wrote a book entitled "A Nation of Victims" in which he TARGETED the victim mentality that had arisen among people in the United States.

In the book's opening pages, he describes an FBI agent who embezzled two thousand dollars and lost it while gambling in Atlantic City. The man was fired, but he won reinstatement after he convinced a court that his tendency toward gambling with other people's money was a "handicap" and therefore protected under federal law.

Sykes in his book, ALSO describes a young man who stole a car from a parking lot and was killed while driving it, and his family responded by suing the proprietor of the parking lot for failing to take steps to prevent such thefts.

If anything, the victim mentality in the United States has only gotten worse.

Rather than taking responsibility for their lives, many people are trying to take the easy way out by establishing themselves AS VICTIMS OF SOCIETY, THE ECONOMY, A CONSPIRACY, OR SOME ALLEGED DISCRIMINATION.

A victim mindset causes people to focus on WHAT THEY CANNOT DO INSTEAD OF WHAT THEY CAN DO.

It is a recipe FOR CONTINUED FAILURE.

Another pattern area that can begin to develop is...

- **We can get stuck asking why.**

Seeking answers to that question rarely helps.

WE MAY NEVER KNOW WHY THINGS HAPPEN. (Dads murder 57 yrs ago yesterday)

If we focus on the why, we may never make real progress in our lives. (3 YR OLD VERSE ADULT, 1 CORINTH 13)

Proverbs 3:5-6 warns us about such thinking.

PROVERBS 3:5-6

Trust in the LORD with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. 6 Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take.

Another pitfall is...

- Comparing ourselves to others.

That can lead to tremendous frustration and dissatisfaction because **YOU CAN ALWAYS FIND SOMEONE BETTER OFF THAN YOU ARE.**

I love this perspective written by a woman who said she would like to be a bear:

She wrote:

If you're a bear, you get to hibernate. You do nothing but sleep for six months. I could deal with that. Before you hibernate, you're supposed to eat yourself stupid. I could deal with that, too. If you're a bear, you birth your children (who are the size of walnuts) while you're sleeping and wake to partially-grown, cute cuddly cubs. I could definitely deal with that. If you're a mama bear, everyone knows you mean business. You swat anyone who bothers your cubs. If your cubs get out of line, you swat them too. I could deal with that. If you're a bear, your mate expects you to wake up growling. He expects that you will have hairy legs and excess body fat. Yup... Gonna be a bear!