

Suggested checklist for eulogy; Abstracted from "The Eulogy as a Tool in Grief Work. Jack H. Bloom. Pastoral Psychology, December 1970

The following items should be covered in a eulogy to shape the direction of the grief work.

1. REALITY--the fact that he who was is no more. There are great tendencies to deny the reality; to hope somehow that the deceased will walk into the room, that she will reappear.

2. GUILT--Every mourner faces this--always a feeling of guilt towards the deceased. "What is there that I could have done... is there something more that I could have done; could have been different?"

3. ANGER--always present. There is a feeling of hostility toward the dead, toward others in the environment, and often towards oneself

4. LOSS OF MEANINGFUL PATTERNS --the often day-to-day patterns that will no longer be the same.

5. MEANING IN AND OF THE LIFE OF THE DECEASED--viz; Victor Frankel-Mans Search for Meaning.

6. HOPE FOR THE FUTURE-We want to know that our life does not just end with the grave. Humankind needs to feel that this cannot be the end, that both in the life of the beloved and one's own, there is something beyond.

The eulogy can and should be built to help meet these needs which are both general in that they apply to almost all mourners, and specific in that each experiences them individually.

Careful listening, even when one comes in cold, and careful preparing in the light of these needs will help the eulogy do its crucial work.