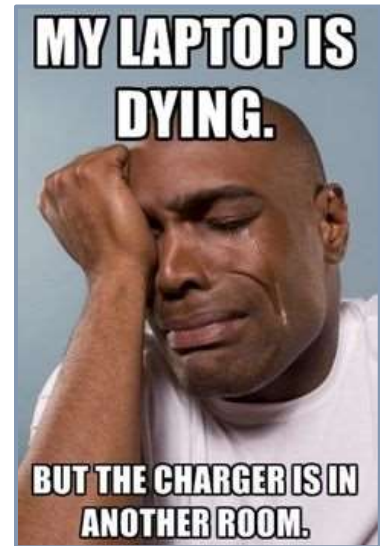


# First-World Problems

As Americans, we are often frustrated with what are called *first-world problems*. A first-world problem is a slang term used to refer to issues in first-world nations that are complained about only because of the absence of more pressing concerns. The term was added to the *Oxford Dictionary Online* in November 2012.

The term *first-world problem* first appeared in 1979 in G.K. Payne's work *Built Environment*, but it gained recognition as an internet meme beginning in 2005, particularly on social networking sites like Twitter. The term is used to minimize complaints about trivial issues by shaming the complainer, or as good-humored self-deprecation.



Here are a few examples:

- When you say something that you think is really clever on social media, and hardly anyone likes it.
- When your kids put dishes in the dishwasher *before* they unload it: you have to play the game of which one is clean.
- Running out of hot water for the shower because someone else took too long.
- When you can't agree on what temperature to keep it.
- When your phone battery dies before you get home from work.
- When you are eating chips, and you can't hear the TV. So annoying!
- When you get chicken tenders from the drive-thru, but they forget the dipping sauce.
- Getting a bad haircut
- When the television remote is not working.
- Poor mobile phone coverage.

For most of us, the worst discomforts we face each week are trivial. That's why it is so hard to relate to all that Jesus did for us when He came to earth and suffered on the cross.

The Bible says, "Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance" (James 1:2-3 NIV).

Every time we patiently endure suffering, major or minor, we become a little bit more like Christ. But don't be concerned if you blow it on some trivial thing. God will give you another chance, and another, and another, etc. Until, with practice, you demonstrate the long-suffering of Jesus.

First-world problems are no problem to God. Rather, each one is an opportunity for you and me to grow in Christlikeness.

– Beecher Hunter