

lack of love affects their welfare and well-being. One example of this may be found in the many retirement homes and nursing homes and convalescent residences where the sick and especially the elderly are left month after month and even year after year without visits, letters, calls, or special occasion celebrations. Without love they shrivel up inside and die!

4. Esteem needs -- We desire that people will think well of us and that we will think well of ourselves. We desire to be and to be perceived as useful, valuable individuals, worthy of respect and honor.

Perhaps we can empathize in a limited fashion with the way persons feel who are viewed as nonentities; whose persons, ideas, feelings, and actions are judged as being worthless, valueless, of no account.

In their turn slaves, women, children, servants, those of a race considered inferior, the lowest socio-economic classes, and the elderly have all experienced being viewed in this manner.

Except for their economic value as property, slaves were viewed as something less than persons; children were to be seen but not heard; women were thought to have no opinions of any value but those of their husbands; servants were to keep their opinions and troubles to themselves; races deemed inferior were not considered fully human and their ideas were suspect from the start; the lowest socio-economic classes are viewed as persons of no account, who can be looked down upon, ignored, manipulated, and treated with discourtesy and even contempt if they forget their place; and the elderly are often regarded as being of less and less value, until they become virtually depersonalized, feel useless, and sink into the apathy that leads to death.