

express and to demonstrate love to one another in all sorts of encouraging and helpful ways.

Christianity provides abundant resources to meet our belongingness and love needs. Those who already have their own needs met in this regard are urged to share with those who need love. And those who are in need are encouraged to reach out to others, because as they do so they find their love and care reciprocated and their own needs met.

4. What about esteem needs?

Christianity abundantly meets the needs of those who are looked down upon, who are considered worthless or valueless because of the class in which society has pigeonholed them.

Think of it! However we are viewed on differing level naturally, God accepts us all spiritually on the same level. In Christ we are accepted, not because of our own character, abilities, potential, appearance, or accomplishments, but because of the infinite value of His person and His saving work for us on Calvary! We are accepted in the beloved One, without conditions or qualifiers.

When I was a patient in Abington Memorial Hospital and in Temple University Hospital I discovered something very fascinating. I learned that the hospital experience, especially in cases of surgery, is a great leveler. People of various walks of life, different occupational levels, different social and economic levels, and different backgrounds viewed each other as equals when it came to the experience of apprehension and anxiety in the pre-operative phase, and to the experience of pain or therapy and general discomfort and inconvenience in the post-operative phase.