

Christianity is a great leveler also, and to an even greater extent. People of different socio-economic conditions, different educational and occupational levels, different ethnic and racial affinities, and different cultural backgrounds and commitments become brothers and sisters in Christ's Church. We all accept one another, the meanwhile provoking each other to love and good works, sanding off each other's rough spots, and generally raising each other's ethical, intellectual, emotional, social, and cultural standards. And thus we learn to think better of others, and better of ourselves as we grow in grace and sanctification. As we find our niche in the life and work of the church, we grow in self-respect and self-esteem, and find others considering us worthy of respect and honor, even as we consider them in the same light.

5. What about self-actualization needs? How does Christianity respond to these concerns?

When we become Christians through the new birth, we do not cease desiring to actualize our potential; rather, we heighten that desire, but from a different motivation. We want to be all that God wants us to be, all that we can be by the grace of God!

And the amazing, wonderful thing is that as we learn to know and to do the revealed will of God, we achieve at the very same time our own highest well-being! To do the will of God and to seek our best interests are not antithetical. These two desires do not clash; rather they mesh beautifully together. God wants to mold us into the image of His Son; as He does this we find that we achieve the highest well-being, and accomplish the greatest good of which we are capable!