

6. What about cognitive needs? How does Christianity respond to these needs?

Rightly understood, Christianity does not stifle intellectual pursuits, especially those that crucially affect mankind's future welfare and well-being.

The desire to know, to learn, to gain knowledge, rightly directed, can be of great blessing to individuals and to the world.

However, if knowledge is to be used to select worthy goals and the best means of achieving them, then knowledge must begin with God's revelation of His purpose and will for all mankind. And to know His revelation we need to study it, especially in the book of Scripture.

Some persons have spent their entire lifetime studying and researching the Bible. Such study requires the best we can give it, and Christianity challenges and encourages us to such study. And, having studied the Bible, we need to integrate that truth with all other fields of knowledge.

7. What about aesthetic needs, the need to experience various forms of beauty?

Christianity responds, first of all, through the new birth, by opening our sin-darkened eyes to the beauties of God's creative activity that already exist all around us. The hymn writer says:

"Heav'n above is softer blue, Earth around is sweeter green!
 Something lives in every hue Christless eyes have never seen:
 Birds with gladder songs o'erflow, Flow'rs with deeper beauties
 shine,

Since I know, as now I know, I am His, and He is mine."