

I. INTRODUCTION.

A. Scripture text: **Romans 8:31-37.**

What then shall we say to these things? If God *is* for us, who *is* against us? [32] He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things? [33] Who will bring a charge against God's elect? God is the one who justifies; [34] who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. [35] Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? [36] Just as it is written, "FOR THY SAKE WE ARE BEING PUT TO DEATH ALL DAY LONG; WE WERE CONSIDERED AS SHEEP TO BE SLAUGHTERED." [37] But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us.

 B. Please notice the PPT screen. This is Maslow's Hierarchy (pyramid) of Needs. With this as a basis of understanding man's needs we look at the all-sufficiency of X and the Bible.

C. Most people have the lower two levels met, yet never reach the top level of personal fulfillment.

D. This is the beginning of a sermon series. The other topics will deal with those things that keep us from reaching the top level. Overcoming:

1. Anxiety (fear).
2. Loneliness.
3. Anger.
4. Guilt.
5. Grief.



II. LEVEL ONE: **PHYSIOLOGICAL NEEDS.**

 A. See chart.

B. Physiological needs include our need for food, water, and clothing. These are the basic needs of life.

 C. The Bible assures these needs will be met in X:

1. These needs will be met so we must learn contentment (Phil. 4:11,12).
Not that I speak from want; for I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am. [12] I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in prosperity; in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need.
2. God will provide the righteous with satisfaction of the stomach (Prov. 13:25).
The righteous has enough to satisfy his appetite, But the stomach of the wicked is in want.
3. A tremendous promise of the future (Psa. 37:25).
I have been young, and now I am old; Yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken, Or his descendants begging bread.
4. We are to put God first and all these things will be added (Mt. 6:31-33).
"Do not be anxious then, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'With what shall we clothe ourselves?' [32] 'For all these things the Gentiles eagerly seek; for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. [33] 'But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added to you.

III. LEVEL TWO: **SAFETY NEEDS.**

 A. See chart.

B. Safety needs include shelter, transportation, medical care, and protection (by the government).

 C. The Bible assures us that these needs will be met in X:

1. We are to submit ourselves to the laws of the land (1Pet. 2:13,14).
Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether to a king as the one in authority, [14] or to governors as sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and the praise of those who do right.
2. Our prayers should be about living a peaceful life (1Tim. 2:1,2).
First of all, then, I urge that entreaties *and* prayers, petitions *and* thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men, [2] for kings and all who are in authority, in order that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity.

3. We have nothing to fear if we are innocent, the authorities, are to punish the guilty as a servant of God (Rom. 13:1-5).

Let every person be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God. [2] Therefore he who resists authority has opposed the ordinance of God; and they who have opposed will receive condemnation upon themselves. [3] For rulers are not a cause of fear for good behavior, but for evil. Do you want to have no fear of authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same; [4] for it is a minister of God to you for good. But if you do what is evil, be afraid; for it does not bear the sword for nothing; for it is a minister of God, an avenger who brings wrath upon the one who practices evil. [5] Wherefore it is necessary to be in subjection, not only because of wrath, but also for conscience' sake.

IV. LEVEL THREE: BELONGINGNESS AND LOVE NEEDS.

-  A. See chart.
- B. Belongingness and love needs are those of social interaction that can be satisfied by family, church, or recreation.
- C. The Bible supports both the family and the church as institutions of love, support, and growth.
-  D. The Bible assures us that these needs will be met in X:
1. The early Xians were devoted to the fellowship (Ac. 2:42).
And they were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.
 2. One of our purposes in assembling is to encourage (Heb. 10:24,25).
and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, [25] not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more, as you see the day drawing near.
 3. We have a responsibility toward others (Rom. 12:10; 14:19).
(Rom 12:10) Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor;
(Rom 14:19) So then let us pursue the things which make for peace and the building up of one another.
 4. Be tender and forgiving in your mutual support (Eph. 4:32).
And be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.
 5. Although speaking of the church, marriage and family provide great support too (Eph. 5:33).
Nevertheless let each individual among you also love his own wife even as himself; and let the wife see to it that she respect her husband.

V. LEVEL FOUR: ESTEEM NEEDS.

-  A. See chart.
- B. Esteem needs are provided in receiving credit for what we do. It is the occasional pat on the back, and the compliments we receive for what we do.
-  C. The Bible assures us that these needs are met in X:
1. God loves you unconditionally! You are valuable in His sight (Jn. 3:16).
"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.
 2. Those that walk after the pattern of X are worthy (Rev. 3:4).
'But you have a few people in Sardis who have not soiled their garments; and they will walk with Me in white; for they are worthy.
 3. God has gladly, not reluctantly, given us the kingdom (Lk. 12:32).
"Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has chosen gladly to give you the kingdom.
 4. God will complete His work in your life (Phil. 1:6).
For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.

VI. LEVEL FIVE: SELF-ACTUALIZATION.

-  A. See chart.
- B. Self-actualization is personal fulfillment; total satisfaction with yourself and your relationships.

- C. As far as Xians are concerned this is being like X in every way.
-  D. The Bible assures us these needs will be met in X:
 - 1. It was Paul's goal to develop people into X's likeness (Col. 1:28; Eph. 4:15).
(Eph 4:15) but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all *aspects* into Him, who is the head, *even* Christ,
(Col 1:28) And we proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, that we may present every man complete in Christ.
 - 2. We are to lay aside, be renewed, and put on X (Eph. 4:20-24).
But you did not learn Christ in this way, [21] if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him, just as truth is in Jesus, [22] that, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, [23] and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, [24] and put on the new self, which in *the likeness of God* has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.
 - 3. By doing this we overwhelmingly conquer! (see Rom. 8:31-37).

VI. CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

-  A. Review full pyramid.
-  B. Zig Ziglar says, "See you at the top!" With X you can be there, having all your needs met.
- C. Now we turn to six things that keep us from reaching the top. Over the next several Sunday nights we shall look at the topics of; anxiety, loneliness, anger, guilt, and grief.
- D. Come to X so that you can begin to live a full, meaningful life; poised against sin, and directed toward heaven.
- E. Plan of salvation for non-Xians, erring Xians.