

ETERNITY AND GREED

“As much money and life as you could want! The two things most human beings would choose above all - the trouble is, humans do have a knack of choosing precisely those things that are worst for them.”

— J.K. Rowling, Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone

Non-biblical

ETERNITY AND GREED

“He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end.”

— Bible(NIV): Ecclesiastes 3:11

Biblical

CHRISTMAS

- 1. What are you most/least looking forward to about the Christmas season this year?
- 2. What makes Christmas a particularly good time to be talking about wonder and worship?



People feel they want something they've lost, and they don't remember what it is they've lost. But it has left a gaping hole. ~ Charles Nuckolls

There is a worldwide stirring among people today. They are tired of the experience of life and they are looking for a sense that God is with us. ~ Tommy Coomes

When we choose to recalibrate our lives round Christ, we'll wake up to new meaning, comfort, and joy. ~ Robert Bilmont

Abraham Maslow



Born	April 1, 1908 Brooklyn, New York
Died	June 8, 1970 (aged 62) Menlo Park, California
Nationality	American
Fields	Psychology
Institutions	Cornell University Brooklyn College Brandeis University
Alma mater	University of Wisconsin –Madison
Doctoral advisor	Harry Harlow

There is something more out there ... isn't there...we all know it...right

Summary from Wikipedia
Maslow



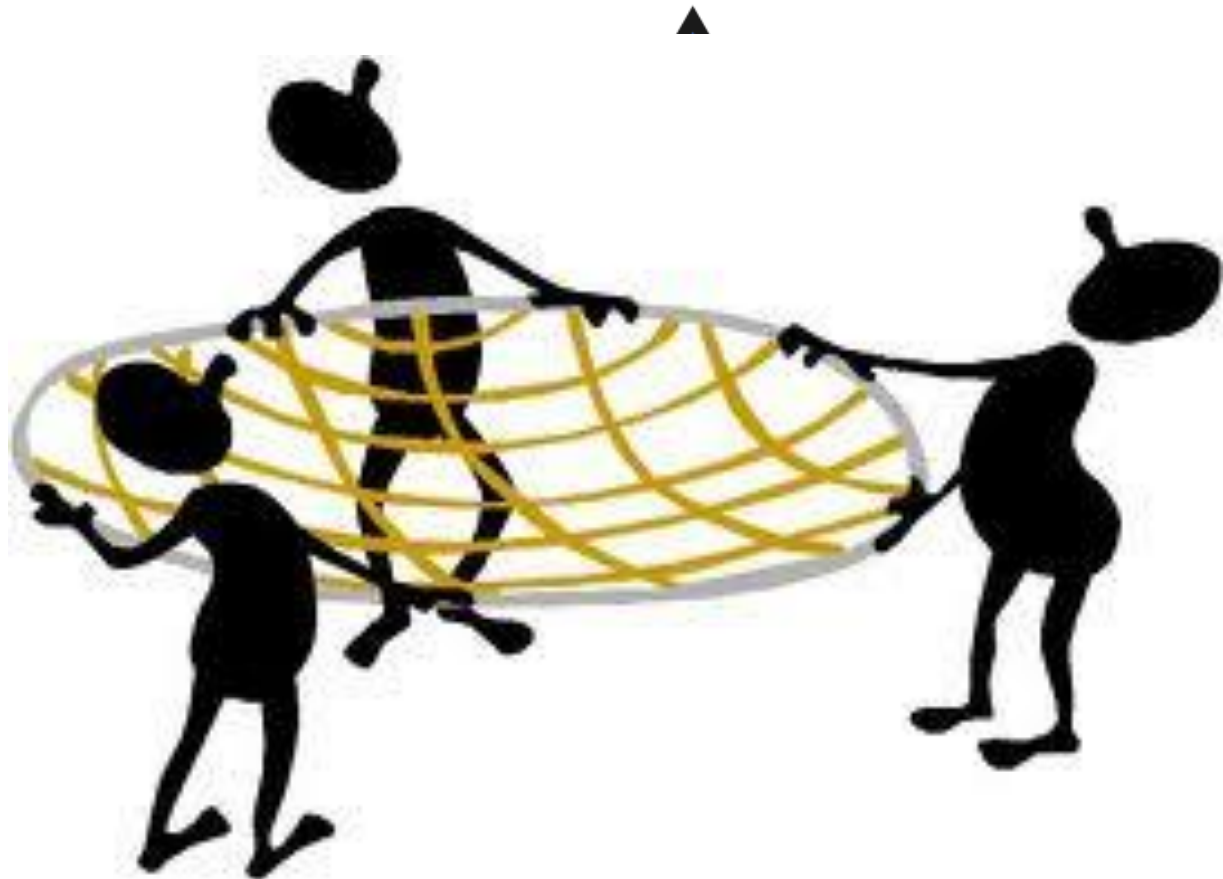
Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs



Physiological

breathing, food, water, sex, sleep, homeostasis, excretion

Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs



Safety

security of: body, employment, resources,
morality, the family, health, property

Physiological

breathing, food, water, sex, sleep, homeostasis, excretion

Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs



Love/belonging

friendship, family, sexual intimacy

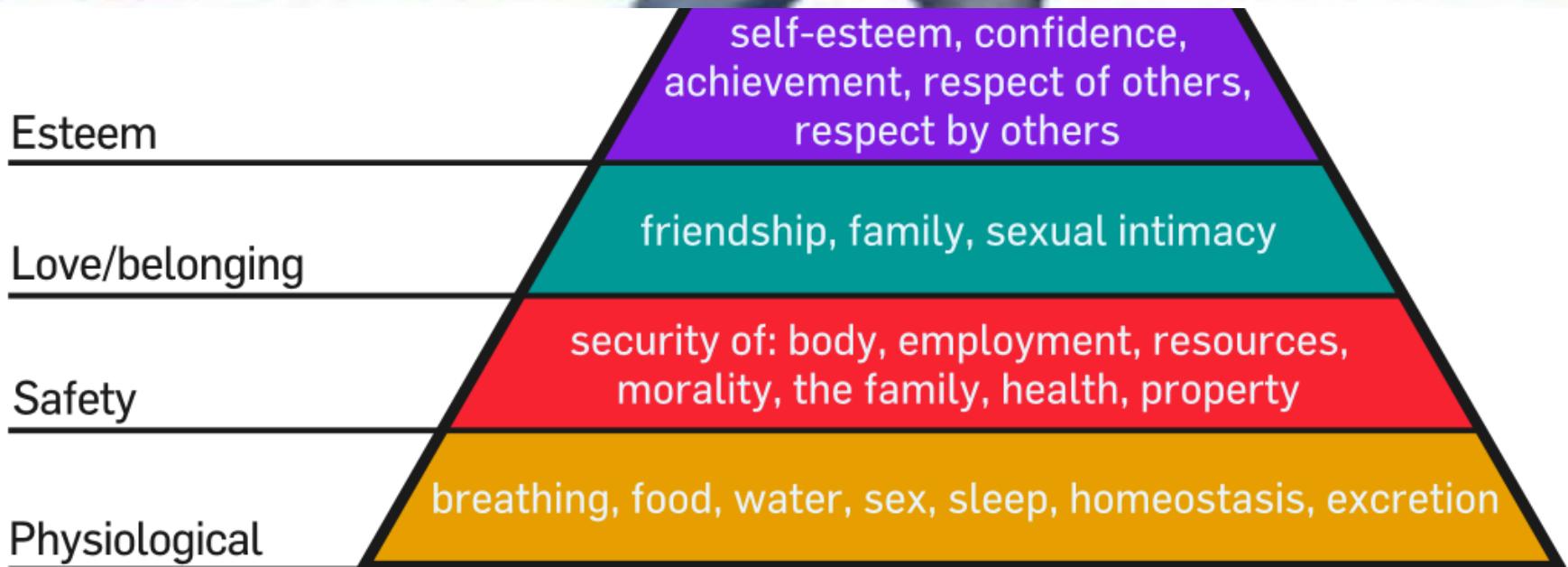
Safety

security of: body, employment, resources,
morality, the family, health, property

Physiological

breathing, food, water, sex, sleep, homeostasis, excretion

Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs



Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs



Self-actualization

morality,
creativity,
spontaneity,
problem solving,
lack of prejudice,
acceptance of facts

Esteem

self-esteem, confidence,
achievement, respect of others,
respect by others

Love/belonging

friendship, family, sexual intimacy

Safety

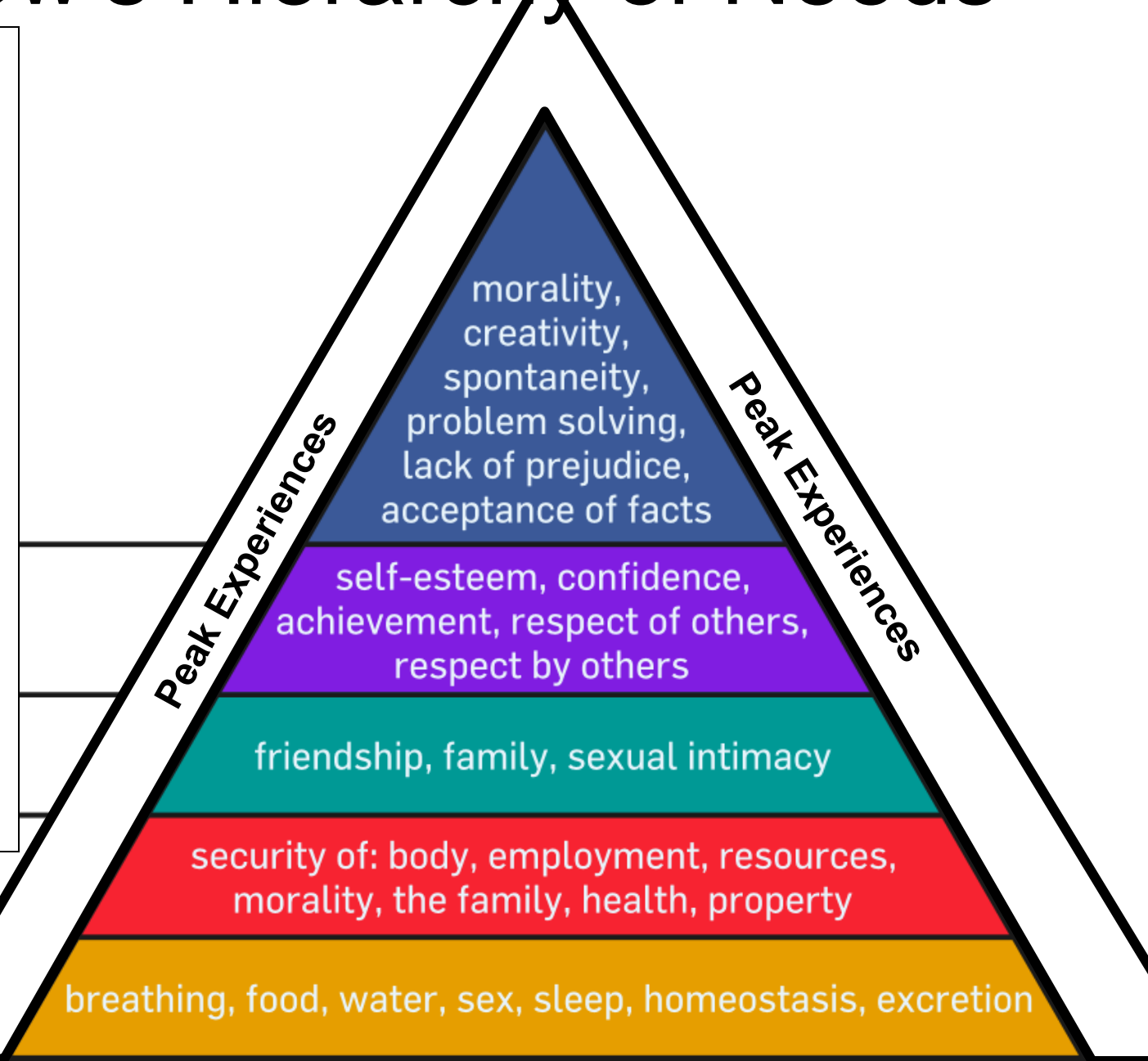
security of: body, employment, resources,
morality, the family, health, property

Physiological

breathing, food, water, sex, sleep, homeostasis, excretion

Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs

Peak experience is a kind of transpersonal and ecstatic state, particularly one tinged with themes of euphoria, harmonization and interconnectedness. Participants characterize these experiences, and the revelations imparted therein, as possessing an ineffably mystical and **spiritual (or overtly religious)** quality or essence



Safety

Physiological

breathing, food, water, sex, sleep, homeostasis, excretion

security of: body, employment, resources, morality, the family, health, property

friendship, family, sexual intimacy

self-esteem, confidence, achievement, respect of others, respect by others

morality, creativity, spontaneity, problem solving, lack of prejudice, acceptance of facts

Peak Experiences

Peak Experiences

Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs

Peak experience is a kind of transpersonal and ecstatic state, particularly one tinged with themes of euphoria, harmonization and interconnectedness. Participants characterize these experiences, and the revelations imparted therein, as possessing an ineffably mystical and **spiritual (or overtly religious)** quality or essence

Maslow describes how the peak experience tends to be uplifting and ego-transcending; it releases creative energies; it affirms the meaning and value of existence; it gives a sense of purpose to the individual; it gives a feeling of integration; it leaves a permanent mark on the individual, evidently changing them for the better.

Maslow defined lengthy, willfully induced peak experiences (plateau experiences) as a characteristic of the self-actualized.

He described it as a **state of witnessing or cognitive blissfulness**, the achievement of which **requires a lifetime of long and hard effort**, and also **self-actualization**.



As soon as all the people saw
Jesus, they were
overwhelmed with wonder and
ran to greet him. John 9:15

Then the Lord God formed a man from the
dust of the ground and breathed into his
nostrils the breath of life, and the man
became a living being. – Gen 2:7

The true light that gives light to everyone
was coming into the world. John 1:9

**The Son is the radiance of God's glory
and the exact representation of his
being, sustaining all things by his
powerful word. After he had provided
purification for sins, he sat down at the
right hand of the Majesty in heaven.**

Hebrews 1:3

Christmas is not going to the mall to find a
cheap meaningful gift to give. It's going to
the manger to find a costly meaningful gift
to receive. ~ Mark Moor

And I, when I am lifted up from the earth,
will draw all people to myself." John 12:32

When he comes, he will prove the
world to be in the wrong about sin
and righteousness and judgment
John 16:8

Holy Spirit

For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross

Colossians 1:19-20



Psalm 63 (David's)

You, God, are my God,
earnestly I seek you;
I thirst for you,
my whole being longs for you,
in a dry and parched land
where there is no water.

² I have seen you in the sanctuary
and beheld your power and your glory.

³ Because your love is better than life,
my lips will glorify you.

⁴ I will praise you as long as I live,
and in your name I will lift up my hands.

⁵ I will be fully satisfied as with the richest of foods;
with singing lips my mouth will praise you.

⁶ On my bed I remember you;
I think of you through the watches of the night.

⁷ Because you are my help,
I sing in the shadow of your wings.

⁸ I cling to you;
your right hand upholds me.

⁹ Those who want to kill me will be destroyed;
they will go down to the depths of the earth.

¹⁰ They will be given over to the sword
and become food for jackals.

¹¹ But the king will rejoice in God;
all who swear by God will glory in him,
while the mouths of liars will be silenced

What idea stands out?

What difference might it make in our life to think of God as “my” God and not just God in general?

David says his whole being longs for God. The Bible says that at some level, this is true for everyone. Why is that?

How could we explain this in a way that would make sense to a non-Christian.)

What does it mean to say God’s love is better than life itself?

David talks a little bit here about God’s judgment on the wicked people who want to kill him. How does believing in God’s future judgment help us live at peace in the present?

As soon as all the people saw
Jesus, they were
overwhelmed with wonder and
ran to greet him. John 9:15

Then the Lord God formed a man from the
dust of the ground and breathed into his
nostrils the breath of life, and the man
became a living being. – Gen 2:7

The true light that gives light to everyone
was coming into the world. John 1:9

**How can you anticipate this
Christmas being different for
you as you increase
...your wonder,
...your worship,
...and your responsiveness?**

When he comes, he will prove the
world to be in the wrong about sin
and righteousness and judgment
John 16:8

Holy Spirit

And I, when I am lifted up from the earth,
will draw all people to myself.” John 12:32

Psalm 63 (David's)

**You, God, are my God,
earnestly I seek you;**

I thirst for you,

my whole being longs for you,
in a dry and parched land
where there is no water.

² I have seen you in the sanctuary
and beheld your power and your glory.

³ Because your love is better than life,
my lips will glorify you.

⁴ I will praise you as long as I live,
and in your name I will lift up my hands.

⁵ I will be fully satisfied as with the richest of foods;
with singing lips my mouth will praise you.

⁶ On my bed I remember you;
I think of you through the watches of the night.

⁷ Because you are my help,
I sing in the shadow of your wings.

⁸ I cling to you;
your right hand upholds me.

⁹ Those who want to kill me will be destroyed;
they will go down to the depths of the earth.

¹⁰ They will be given over to the sword
and become food for jackals.

¹¹ But the king will rejoice in God;
all who swear by God will glory in him,
while the mouths of liars will be silenced

John Chrysostom (347-407 AD)
advised reading this psalm daily

**John Chrysostom (Archbishop
of Constantinople, was an
important Early Church Father.**

He is known for his eloquence in
preaching and public speaking, his
denunciation of abuse of authority by
both ecclesiastical and political leaders,
the Divine Liturgy of St. John

Chrysostom, and his ascetic
sensibilities. After his death in 407 (or,
according to some sources, during his
life) he was given the Greek epithet
chrysostomos, meaning "golden
mouthed" in English, and Anglicized to
Chrysostom



As soon as all the people saw
Jesus, they were
overwhelmed with wonder and
ran to greet him. John 9:15

Then the Lord God formed a man from the
dust of the ground and breathed into his
nostrils the breath of life, and the man
became a living being. – Gen 2:7

The true light that gives light to everyone
was coming into the world. John 1:9

**Christmas is not about the mall,
It's about us connecting with eternity,
in a wonderful, awe inspired way,
that causes us to love others and want
the same for them.**

How many modern children and adults think this way?

And I, when I am lifted up from the earth,
will draw all people to myself.” John 12:32

When he comes, he will prove the
world to be in the wrong about sin
and righteousness and judgment
John 16:8

Holy Spirit