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**What can my partner do to fulfil these physical needs?**

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**My emotional needs**

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**What can my partner do to fulfil these emotional needs?**

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**My spiritual needs**

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**What can my partner do to fulfil these spiritual needs?**

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**My social and intellectual needs**

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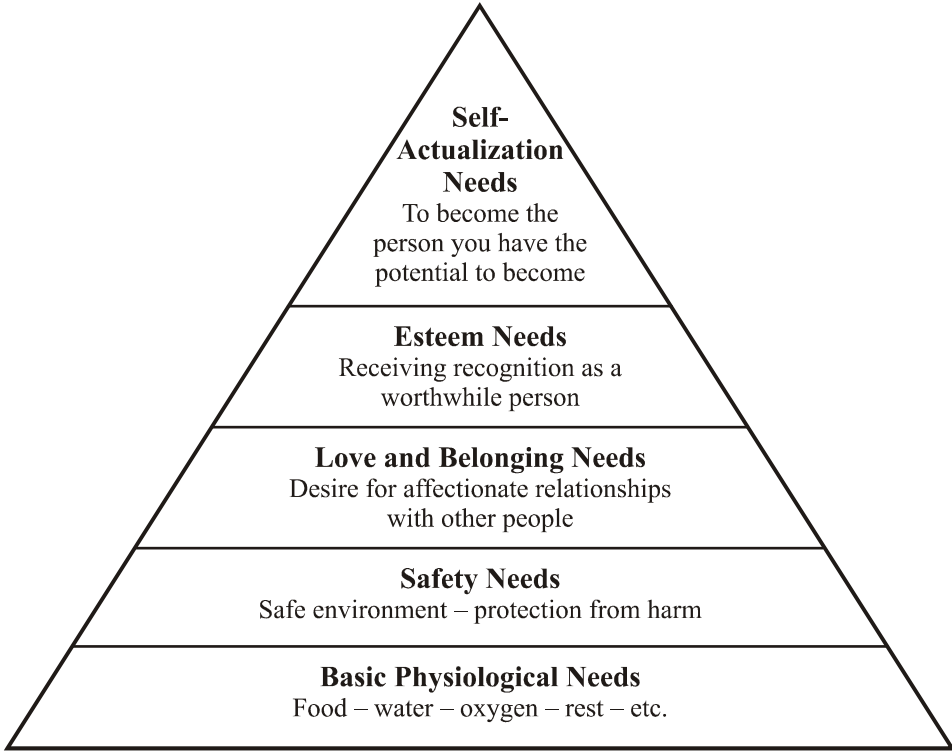
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Years ago a psychologist named Abraham Maslow suggested certain needs each person has in their life in order of importance. See illustration



Most partners help to fulfil the basic levels of needs, physiological and safety, but fail to fully meet the other three higher needs, for love and belonging, esteem and self-actualization.

Now looking at the chart complete the following sentences:-

**1 During our marriage I will try to meet the needs of my partner in these last three higher needs of:**

**Love and Belonging**

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**Esteem**

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**Self-Actualization**

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**2 How can my partner best meet my own needs in these last three higher areas?**

**Love and Belonging**

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**Esteem**

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**Self-Actualization**

Dotted lines for writing.

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Now take the Christian Bible, and claim the promises that God has made to meet every need on your list.

To which area of need does each promise relate?

**Psalms 103:4** [NIV] *“who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion,”*

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**Matthew 6:33-34** [NIV] *“But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.”*

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**Romans 5:8** [NIV] *“But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”*

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**Romans 8:35, 39** [NIV] *“Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?” ... “neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*

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**Ephesians 2:10** [NIV] *“For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”*

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Within this classification of needs the words “*esteem*” or “*self-esteem*” have arisen.

The concept of “*self-esteem*” or “*self-image*” is one of the most important foundations of a marriage.

If one partner has low self-esteem and marries a certain person in order to build your self-esteem this will put a great strain on the marriage.

So often self-image or self-concept is built on our physical appearance and measure of success as society judges success instead of character and worth in the eyes of our Creator God.

**Think about this:-**

Every human being’s worth is so great that if you had been the only person created upon the earth God would have still sent Jesus Christ to die for you to rescue you from sin.

This is the worth you have in the eyes of God and the unconditional love He has for each of us.

In your relationship with **God the Father** you are assured of belongingness.

In your relationship with **Jesus Christ** you are assured of your worthiness.

In your relationship with the **Holy Spirit** you have a secure sense of competence as you allow Him to work in you to produce the characteristics that are God and through you the joy of shared accomplishment that brings blessings to other human beings.

**This is how the presence of God in your life will empower you to fulfil these three higher needs in your partner's life and they in yours.**