

RED LETTER CHALLENGE ... SERVING (John 13:6-17)

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We are motivated by expectations. We give and serve but we expect something in return. We may start without expectations but at some point, we ask, "What's in it for me?" As we follow Jesus and put his words into action, He calls us to serve without expecting anything in return. This is the true heart of a servant?

Jesus followers serve because _____.

just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many. – Matthew 20:28

KEY: What's your _____ for serving?

Ephesians 2:9-10

True fulfillment is found in _____,

not _____.

Meanwhile his disciples urged him, "Rabbi, eat something." But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you know nothing about." ... "My food," said Jesus, "is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work. – John 4:31-32, 34

You're made to live for _____.

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. – 1 Peter 2:9

You are _____ and there is no _____.

Matthew 5:15-16, Philippians 1:27

THE CHALLENGE: Simply _____ to serve.

The King will reply, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." – Matthew 25:40 (NIV)

What matters most is not the _____, but the _____ of your life.

Now may the God of Peace ... equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen. – Hebrews 13:20-21



Questions for individual or group reflection:

Has anyone ever done something so great for you that you can't help but want to repay them?

What is your motivation for serving others?

Discuss what "Because You Say So, I Will" means to you.

How is pride related to service?

Why do you think it's counter-cultural to put others before yourself?

How do you think Jesus wants us to serve Him? (see Matthew 25:31-46)

What do you "get" out of serving others?

How does your generous service reflect upon your God in the sight of others?

How can you let your service become an act of witness?

React to the statement, "what matters most is not the duration, but the donation of your life."

Pray: Lord, thank you that you showed us your love by serving us. Even though you are the Lord of all, you came to serve, rather than be served. You showed the depth of that love and service by giving your life for me! Lord, thank you! I know I can never repay you for what you have done, nor do you ask me to. Help me, though, to demonstrate my love and thankfulness to you by serving others. Remind me Lord that you've said that what we do to others in Your Name is as though we have done it to You. Help me to serve out of the right motivation of heart, and in so doing to become more like you! In Your Name, dear Jesus. Amen.

Do: Pray about how God is calling you to serve and who God is calling you to serve ... then DO it.

Memory Verse: "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." – Mark 10:45

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RED LETTER

CHALLENGE





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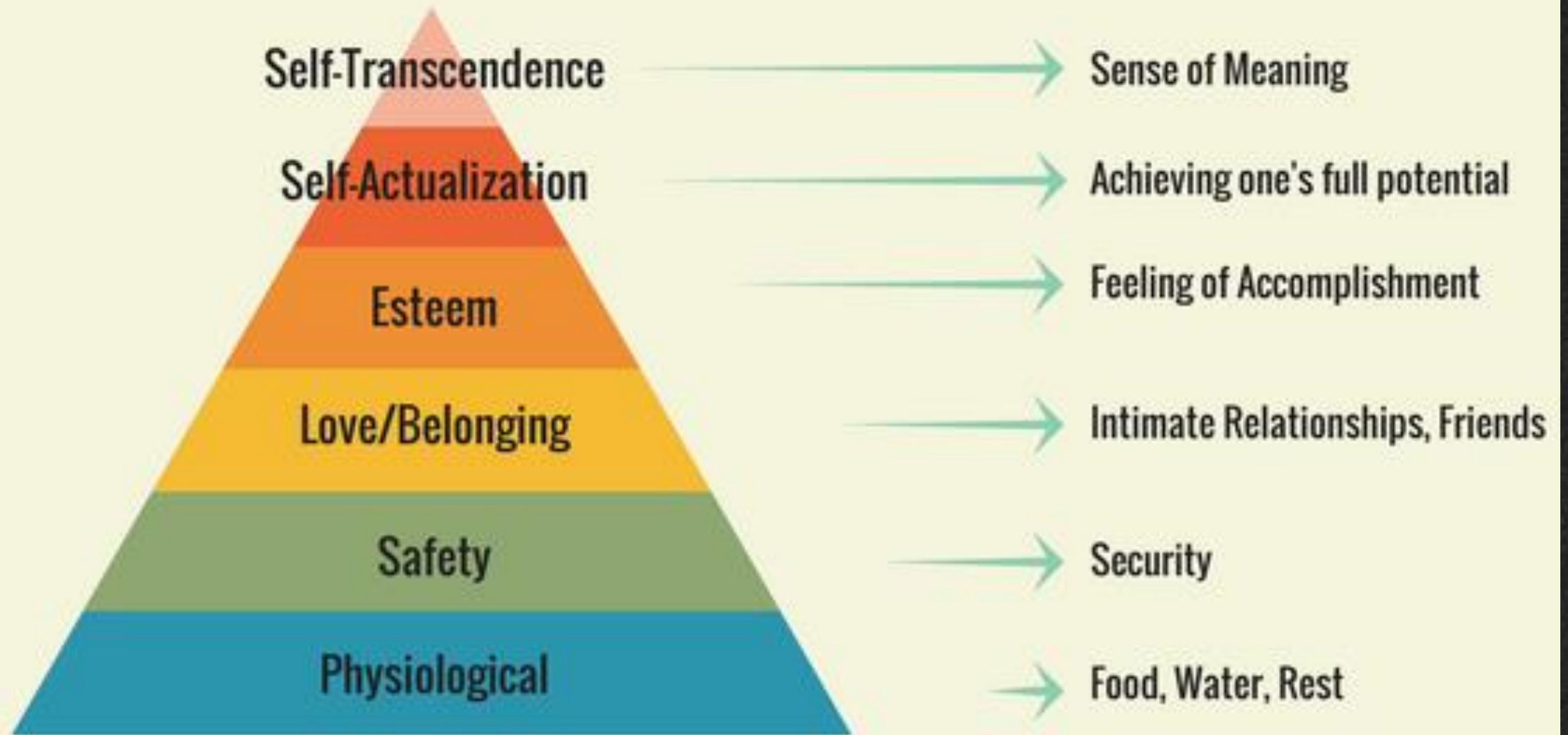


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8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith— and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— 9 not by works, so that no one can boast. 10 For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

- Ephesians 2:8-10

MASLOW'S NEW HIERARCHY OF NEEDS





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... a PLAN ...



You're made to live for something
greater than yourself.

... GOD'S PLAN ...



You're made to live for something greater than yourself.

4 'You yourselves have seen what I did to Egypt, and how I carried you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. 5 Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, 6 you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' – Exodus 19:4-6



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14 "You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven. – Matthew 5:14-16



You are God's plan A and there is
no Plan B.



You can't save yourself by serving others, it just might save someone else.



Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel.

– Philippians 1:27



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