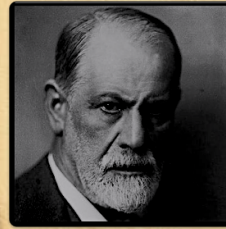


Sigmund Freud
focused on man's
problem.



Abraham Maslow
focused on man's
potential.



Sigmund Freud

"The goal of all
life is death."



Abraham Maslow

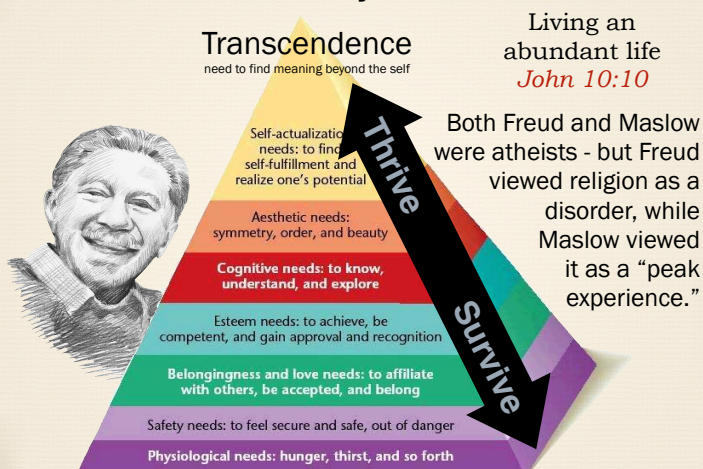
"What a man can
be, he must be.
This need we call
self-actualization."



The American dream

Happiness is
being all that you
can be - reaching
your potential.

Maslow's hierarchy of human needs



Why have Christians criticized Maslow's insights?

- He does not recognize the "image of God" in man as that which needs to be actualized.
- He measures personal fulfillment and happiness exclusively in this world's terms.
- It's all about ME. He encourages a spiritual narcissism and autonomy.
- His insights have become the cornerstone of much of modern humanistic education, psychology, and hope.

What should Christians learn from Maslow's insights?

- He touches on what is distinctive about being human - made in the image of God.
- He identifies levels of longing for life and how our behavior is motivated by those longings.
- He helps us understand the dynamics of fear, frustration, & happiness in this life.
- He helps us know how to communicate the Gospel to our generation of "life seekers."
- He challenges us to ask - What does it mean to experience life in all its fullness?

Does Christian holiness contribute to personal wholeness?

We Fear
that it does not.

Matthew 10:39

"He who has found his life will lose it, and he who has lost his life for My sake will find it"

Luke 9:23

"If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me."

Does Christian holiness contribute to personal wholeness?



Albert Camus

"To be happy, we must not be too concerned with others."

The Gospel story

- **Eden** - God's creation was to be an internal and external perfect environment for God's image bearers.
- **Fall** - This plan was terribly corrupted by sin.
- **Restoration** - God's plan was to redeem and renew his creation through the Cross & Resurrection of Christ.
- **Two coexisting ages** - This evil age coexists with the mystery form of the Kingdom which will be fully realized at the 2nd coming of Christ, bringing a new heaven and earth.
- **Waiting** - Faith in Christ is our ticket securing our inclusion in the coming "new restored earth" but we now are waiting, witnessing, & giving out tickets.

Romans 13

"¹¹ And this (**love one another**) do, knowing the time, that it is already the hour for you to awaken from sleep; for now salvation is nearer to us than when we believed. ¹² The night is almost gone, and the day is at hand. Let us therefore lay aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. ¹³ Let us behave properly as in the day, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual promiscuity and sensuality, not in strife and jealousy. ¹⁴ But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh in regard to its lusts."

Paraphrase of Romans 13

"¹¹ Sacrificially love one another knowing that the fulfillment of your deepest longings is just around the corner at Christ's coming. ¹² Act like you know this; ¹³ not like those who turn to the deeds of the flesh to find life. ¹⁴ Let your unmet longings draw you to Christ not to fleshly painkillers."

Are we seeking to find our lives (self actualization) in the wrong places?

Characteristics of the night -

- **Substance abuse** - "carousing and drunkenness"
- **Sexual abuse** - "sexual promiscuity and sensuality"
- **Status abuse** - "strife and jealousy"

Our Functional Messiah is that which makes us feel most alive.

- We face Eve's temptation - seek fullness of life through the creation not the Creator.
- It's time to renew our hope in Christ.
- This will mean we feed the Spirit and starve the flesh.

Are we seeking to find our lives (self actualization) in the wrong places?

Jeremiah 2:13

"For My people have committed two evils: they have forsaken Me, the fountain of living waters, to hew for themselves cisterns, broken cisterns that can hold no water."

- **Cisterns must be "hewn."**
- **Cisterns are "broken."**
- **Cisterns can't "hold."**

1 Corinthians 15:19

"If we have hoped in Christ **in this life only**, we are of all men most to be pitied."

1 Timothy 6:5-6

". . . men of depraved mind and deprived of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a means of gain. But **godliness actually is a means of great gain when accompanied by contentment.**"

2 Peter 3

"¹¹ Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, ¹² looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be destroyed by burning, and the elements will melt with intense heat! ¹³ But according to His promise **we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells.**"

Philippians 3:8

"More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ,"

- **Gaining life in Christ means that I let go of life in something (everything) else.**
- **"Suffered the loss" - This is not without risk and pain.**

Matthew 6:24

"No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth."

- **Our wealth is not just our "treasure" but also our "talents."**
- **Our temptation is to find our life in what we have, are, or accomplish in this age.**

God is notoriously inefficient.

**He is after our heart
not our talents.**

**Our talent can be His
biggest obstacle to our
heart.**

Haddon Robinson



"Our greatest obstacle to experiencing God's grace is our damnable *good works*."

Does holiness bring wholeness?

Yes

- but perhaps not in the way and time we want or expect.

Past	Present	Future
I have been saved when I first believed	I am being saved as I trust and obey	I will be saved at Christ's return
Justification	Sanctification	Glorification
"Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ" Rom.5:1	" work out your salvation with fear and trembling." Phil.2:12	"who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time ." 1 Pet.1:5

Heaven is

The Glory of God
shared by his people -
satisfying the deepest
longings of their hearts.

Ephesians 1:18

"I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,"

- We need both light and sight.
- Paul shows us the light in his teaching and prays that we will see our hope and our inheritance by faith.

What are we to learn from Rom.14:8-10?

- Don't kill the pain by repressing the longings for fulness of life, which are natural, needed, & good.
- Resist the temptation to feed our worldly passions in order to satisfy our longings for life.
 - ✓ Substance, Sexual, or Status abuse.
 - ✓ Glorifying our talents, work, & productivity.
- The degree to which these longings are satisfied in this life only wets our appetite for God's kingdom.

It is not our disappointments
(setbacks) in this life
that mark us

but rather
how we respond,
what we do next.