

## Editing Sample 2: Book

Now go back and imagine your father conveying to you the message that no matter what you'd done—even if you still deserved to be punished—you belonged to him, and he belonged to you. -It's hard to pull off ~~in life~~ sometimes. -~~b~~But a perfect father will always convey belonging and acceptance. -As we go on from here, it ~~will's going to~~ be important to have the picture of a perfect father in mind, not our imperfect or even abusive parents. -A perfect parent gives unconditional belonging, and accepting unconditional belonging is the beginning point for maturity. -

For an illustration of why this idea of unconditional belonging is so foundational, ~~- and why getting belonging right is so key,~~ let's leave the scripture for a moment look at Maslow's pyramid. -

### Maslow's Pyramid

The behavioral scientist Abraham Maslow (1908-1970~~3~~) studied the lives and habits of highly successful, motivated and satisfied people to find out what ~~made~~ dekes them tick. - He gathered his findings into what he called a "hierarchy of needs," which is usually represented by a pyramid. - It's a lot like the FDA's nutritional pyramid, if you remember that from the back of the cereal box—lots of fruits and vegetables at the bottom, a little ~~steak and eggs~~ dessert at the top—except that Maslow's pyramid explains how we can reach our full potential (the summit) or get stuck ~~closer to base camp~~ at the bottom by our lower instincts. -If you haven't heard about it before, the pyramid gives an eye-opening glimpse into the motivations that drive us all as humans. -I think Maslow's observations tap into some universal truths about our design. -

Here's how Maslow's pPyramid works. -There are five levels, starting with the one at the very bottom—the widest—and working up to the pointed tip. -At each level, you only think about getting to the next level, and completely take for granted the levels below you—~~don't even give a thought to them.~~ -At the first two levels are our most basic physiological ~~and safety~~ needs: breathing, water, food, sex, sleep, excretion. - The second level is about our safety needs: a place to live, a job, a healthy body, and so on. -Basically, ~~these two levels describe the~~ things that our body needs to work right and continue our physical existence. -In general, we tend not to think about these at all unless they are no longer available. -How often do you stop and thank God for the air you breathe? -But if you get stuck underwater, all other desires in life recede, and all you care about is a breath of air. -~~We need it to live.~~ -

Since human beings are relational by nature—we like the company of other people and seek it out—we graduate from pursuing our safety needs to pursuing social needs. -This level on the pyramid is huge crucial, and it's all about bBelonging. -We humans have a deep-seated desire to belong, ~~and it begins with our families.~~ -I woul<sup>2</sup>d argue that the foundation for all of life—our happiness, our outlook, our ~~sense of~~ stability—is shaped in large part by our sense of identity, who we are. -And our self-identity is shaped by our view of whether and to what we belong. -On Maslow's pyramid, our social needs are met first by family ties, friendship, and sexual intimacy. -We're made to want all of them—yes, even fulfilling sex. -(Surprise! -The Bible is filled with sexual imagery, just like the harlot example from Ezekiel. -God invented sex not only for our enjoyment, but also to teach us something.)

-Our "social" needs can also be met by larger groups, like sports teams, school cliques, religious groups and professional organizations. -These groups are ideally a healthy offshoot of more intimate belonging, but they can also become enslaving when belonging in a group is

**Comment [CS1]:** I found that Maslow died in 1970, not 1973.

conditional upon adherence to a leader's tyranny, such as in gangs or cults. -These dysfunctional groups prey on insecure folks who lack a ~~secure-solid~~ sense of belonging, and ~~this only~~ demonstrates the degree of pain we will ~~accept-undergo~~ in order to gain ~~acceptance~~. - (The best way to inoculate your children from joining such groups is to instill in them unconditional belonging!)-

Our need to feel like we belong is so fundamental to our makeup and so strong that if we aren't getting enough of it at home, we ~~ll~~ look for it elsewhere. -We've all seen that before, haven't we? ~~It happens -e~~ven ~~with~~ successful people who seem like they should have no problem fitting in. -In Joe Torre's 2009-book Ground Rules for Winners about his years managing the New York Yankees, he describes how Alex Rodriguez—~~who~~ some say ~~is~~ the best all-around player in the history of Major League baseball—tried so hard to be popular in the clubhouse his first year on the team that the other players saw right through it and called him ~~"A-Fraud."~~ -Perhaps A-Rod grew up learning he needed to perform to a set of expectations in order to belong ~~and thus he "tried too hard" to fit in with his new teammates.~~ -Even highly paid superstars can be crippled by insecurity!

We have a term for the pressure that a group can place on individuals to behave a certain way in order to belong: "peer pressure." -While peer pressure usually has a negative connotation, it's actually just like water pressure: ~~-it~~ can be geared toward constructive or destructive behaviors. -In the school I helped found, we deliberately ~~erected-established~~ structures to generate positive peer ~~-~~pressure, and they work. -Students need to be carrying an 85 average in every one of their subjects to participate in extracurricular activities, so there's a real incentive to do well—and there's a cost for slacking off. -It's pretty embarrassing to have to explain to your teammates that you're sitting out the state basketball tournament because of your grades (and that goes equally for boys and girls). -The classes are highly participatory, so every day our kids might get called on to do anything from solving a Euclidean proof (geometry) to discussing Plato's "Republic" (literature). -Again, a ~~pretty~~ humiliating experience if you've been up late on ~~Google-~~chatFacebook instead of doing your homework.

American culture tends to generate negative peer pressure, and much of it pressures kids to conform to destructive behavior in order to belong. ~~Those kids who get unconditional belonging from their parents will be much more likely to resist making bad choices in order to gain acceptance.~~ -In fact, the need to belong is so strong ~~in us~~ that it can actually lead people to slip down Maslow's pyramid a level or two and start to undermine their own safety. -Think of girls who trade their own health for ~~male~~-attention ~~and-by~~ starving themselves to look like supermodels. -Cult ~~leaderss~~, pimps, and other forms of abusers prey on folks seeking acceptance and coerce them into slavery, promiscuity, child abuse, incest, you name it—even suicide. Those kids who sense unconditional belonging from their parents will be much more likely to resist making bad choices in order to gain acceptance. -

Let's stop for a second and examine a really important distinction I alluded to just now: ~~unconditional belonging e~~conditional belonging ~~versus conditional belonging. -unconditional~~ belonging. -They're polar opposites. One leads to healthy behavior and the other leads to self-destructive behavior. ~~-~~Good parentsing will let a child know that whatever they do ~~-~~—whether their behavior is good or bad ~~-~~—they will never be rejected by their family. Parents who make their children's belonging in the family conditional on good behavior, graduating first in their class, or anything else, thus sending the message "I'll reject you if you don't perform," are undermining their children's emotional health and leaving them even more vulnerable to outside influences. -Approval is a whole different story; in fact, that's the next level on the pyramid.

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**Comment [CS3]:** Do you think this is specific to American culture? How can we make this idea easily translatable for your Chinese and African audiences?

which we will discuss in a moment. -Proper approval is conditional on behavior. -And if the approval is too easily given, then it loses its value. -But a child's fundamental belonging should never be in question. ~~Parents who make belonging in the family conditional on good behavior, graduating first in their class, or anything else—I'll reject you if you don't perform—are undermining their children's emotional health and leaving them even more vulnerable to outside influences.~~

And ~~J~~ust as in human families, the foundation of spiritual health is a rock-solid knowledge that we belong. ~~And~~, By faith, we can know that we belong to God's family; not because of anything we have done, but because God is God, and He has freely given belonging to all who believe in His Son.