

Living the “Good” Life—Levels of Morality in Children and Adults

January 15—OBEDIENCE



Moral basis of Kohlberg 1: Obedience vs. punishment

Develop: **Trust** from consistent reward and punishment

STAGE 1: GOD IS LIKE MOMMY AND DADDY

*I NEED IT
WANT*

Approximate age range: From two to six years.

People develop a basic sense of trust. They rely on those who provide care, love, and nurture. They identify God as a caring, loving parent who protects and nurtures.

Factors which affect this expression of faith:

1. Remember random segments of stories.
2. Cannot always distinguish fact from fantasy.
3. Lack abstract reasoning skills.
4. Are fragile and have limits.
5. Trust adults, usually.
6. View God as a friend to be talked to.
7. Learn best through actions of others (more so than words).

Implications for leaders:

1. Tell simple, single-focus stories.
2. Listen carefully to detect points of confusion.
3. Don't teach abstract ideas that will be misunderstood and will need to be unlearned later.
4. Know and respect their abilities and limits.
5. Don't take advantage of their trust by overteaching.
6. Seek opportunities for spontaneous free prayer to God.
7. Exemplify God's love and acceptance.



People might view Isaac's trust in his father rather than any sense of danger.

Levels of Morality in Children and Adults

Moral Phase	Jean Piaget	Eric Erikson	Lawrence Kohlberg	James Fowler	Sunday School Droege	Why Morality?
OBEDIENCE ME	1. Preconventional Physical needs Sensorimotor self 0-7 years	1. Trust vs. Mistrust	1. Obedience and punishment	0. Safe and secure vs. neglect and abuse 2-6+ years	God is like Mommy and Daddy	Security
FAIRNESS ME	1. Preconventional External rewards Sensorimotor concrete 0-7 years. Symbolize actions 7-11 years.	2. Autonomy Vs. Shame and Doubt	2. Self-interest, Paying for a benefit	1. Impulse control 3-7+ years 2. Justice and Reciprocity 7-12 years	God is a person. What's fair is fair.	Not unhappy Get happy
NORMS US	2. Conventional Correct role Symbolize norms 11+ years.	3. Initiative vs. Guilt 4. Industry vs. Inferiority	3. Interpersonal norms, One of the 'good' people	3. Conformity to custom 12-18+ years	I believe what the church believes.	Social order Success of species
PERSONAL BELIEF US	2. Conventional Social Order	5. Identity vs. Role confusion	4. Authority, law and order	4. Angst/Struggle Responsibility for own belief 18-40+ years	As I see it, God is...	Grow relationships
DIALOGUE THE GOOD	3. Post-Conventional Shared standards	6. Intimacy vs. Isolation	5. Social contract (20%)	5. Mid-life crisis Paradox and Transcendence behind symbols 40+ if ever	More than just words	<i>Creativity Care for weak</i>
UNIVERSAL PRINCIPLES THE GOOD	3. Post-conventional Ideals, rights, duties	7. Generativity vs. Stagnation	6. Universal ethical principles (6%)	6. Universal unity Late life, Rare	I have a dream.	<i>Natural world Spiritual world Share awe</i>

[see other side]

SEPARATE DOMAINS OF MORALITY:

Turiel and others in the last 20 years have divided morality into 3 “domains”: Personal, Interpersonal, and Societal. They have validated that in many cultures the youth think of morality in these separate domains and have a different morality in each of these domains. Personal morality is seen as an individual choice with no outside requirements. Interpersonal morality and Societal morality may have different rules. Is it OK for you / your friends / society to use a cell phone while driving?

AGES OF MORAL DEVELOPMENT (FOWLER) MAY BE LATER IN MODERN SOCIETY

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8. Justice with Michael Sandel at www.JusticeHarvard.org, episodes 11 and 12
9. Oxytocin: http://www.cnn.com/2011/12/27/opinion/zak-moral-molecule/index.html?hpt=hp_t2