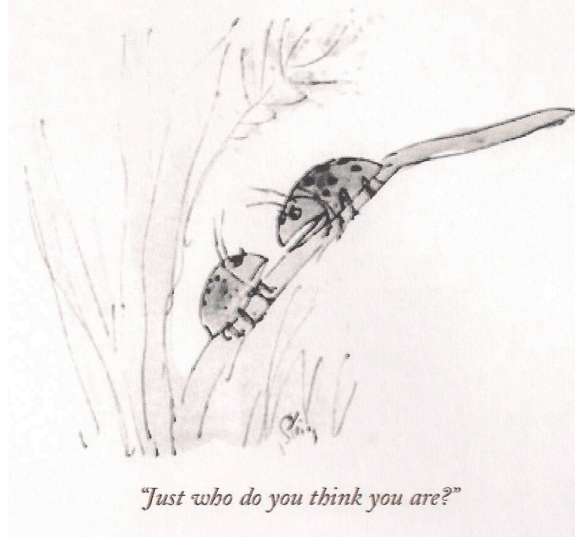


# Living the “Good” Life—Levels of Morality in Children and Adults

## January 29—NORMS



Moral basis of Kohlberg 3: Interpersonal norms

Develop: **Conformity** by imitation of peers and models

**Sources of Moral Authority** (JusticeHarvard.org Episode 11):

1. **Universal**—as a member of humanity
2. **Voluntary**—consented to as a deal, a social contract
3. **Community**—membership, solidarity, loyalty

Aristotle—society should be structured to promote particular goals

Kant—society should have only enough structure to facilitate personal freedom, what membership, solidarity, loyalty I commit to is entirely my choice (voluntary, as a preferred deal).

### STAGE 3: I BELIEVE WHAT THE CHURCH BELIEVES

**Approximate age range:** Begins about age 12. People rely on authorities for what they believe. There is little critical examination of beliefs. Their widening contacts begin to expose them to conflicting authorities, but their beliefs and understandings of God are as the church teaches.

#### Factors which affect this expression of faith:

1. Can begin to think abstractly.
2. Desire for organized patterns of thinking.
3. Have a quest for religious knowledge.
4. Can articulate what they've been taught, but are not able to develop their own point of view.
5. Need acceptance and self-esteem.
6. Look for identity from others; peers are important.
7. Have strong feelings of trust.
8. Are easy indoctrinated.

#### Implications for leaders:

1. Encourage their developing ability to question and think for themselves.
2. Provide increasingly complex ideas to fit their expanding world.
3. Recognize their growing understanding of God as a personal friend and adviser.
4. Help them feel good about what they know. Use factual information and encourage the expression of opinions.
5. Affirm and encourage them as individuals and stress God's grace.
6. Give special attention to relationship building. Use group-oriented teaching styles such as teamwork, projects, and so forth.
7. Encourage their prayer and devotional life.
8. Don't take advantage of their willingness to rely on authorities.
9. Express your own Christian witness and faith experiences. Help them see the faith experiences of other Christians.



People might view God's command to "slop" as a reward that Abraham earned because he obeyed the first command to prepare Isaac as a sacrifice