

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

February 5—PERSONAL BELIEF



Moral basis of Kohlberg 4: Authority, law and order,

Develop: **Social responsibility** and duty from a personal belief out of personal experience of law and rules

## STAGE 4: AS I SEE IT, GOD IS . . .

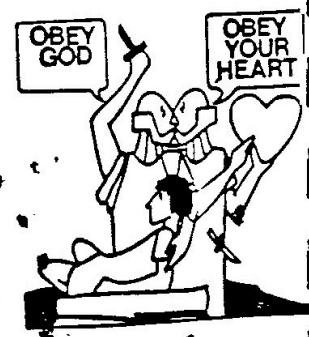
**Approximate age range:** Begins about age 18.  
People become more independent in their thinking. They weigh the alternatives and take a personal stand. Individual reflection and thinking help them sort out conflicting viewpoints in order to form their own. Beliefs and understandings of God are very personal.

### Factors which affect this expression of faith:

1. Establish a personal identity.
2. Seek independence.
3. Trust their own intellectual ability.
4. Are concerned about individuality.
5. Like to debate or argue points of conviction.
6. Are confronted by conflicting authorities.
7. Engage in objective reflection.

### Implications for leaders:

1. Recognize that traditional values and ideas may be rejected.
2. Encourage their personal reflective thinking.
3. Listen to the challenges, questions, and ideas which come in searching for a personal expression of faith.
4. Affirm, accept, and support them as individuals.
5. Use group processes which encourage personal reflection, challenging and questioning one another, comparing and contrasting information, and sharing ideas.
6. Help them think about their faith and sort through the various messages they receive.
7. Present a wide range of topics and issues, and encourage dialogue.
8. Express your own Christian witness in open and nonjudgmental ways.



People might view Abraham torn between sacrificing Isaac and his religious understanding of the sanctity of life.