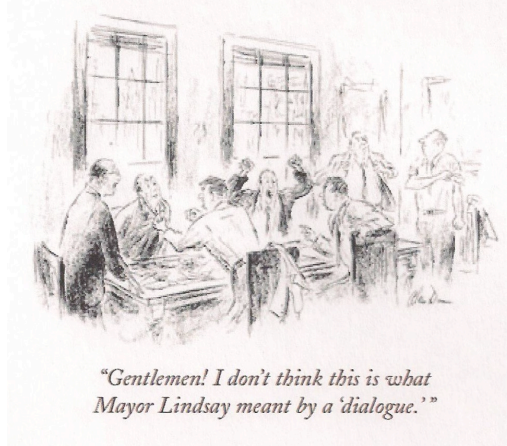


Living the “Good” Life—Levels of Morality in Children and Adults

February 12—DIALOGUE



Moral basis of Kohlberg 5: Individual rights within a social contract (20%)

Develop: **Dialogue** from paradox and mid-life crisis

Good, Evil, and Guilt: Martin Buber (Ref. 1, pg. 126): **Good** is to make an honest and comprehensive response, to be open to opinions and experiences and to dialogue and reconcile. **Evil** is to be non-responsive, to be adamant without dialogue, to polarize, to refuse to experience. **Guilt** is to fail to respond, to fail to become the person that one is called to become, to fail to give and receive, to listen and talk, to lose and win, to agree and disagree, and thus to fail to join or merge in a common joy.

STAGE 5: MORE THAN JUST WORDS

Age range: Adult years, if at all.

People are concerned about dialogue. They are open to new ways of looking at things and to seeing other viewpoints. They search for deeper meanings in their lives. Their understanding of their religious beliefs and of God is part of their search.

Factors which affect this expression of faith:

1. Seek interchange with others.
2. Have confidence in own positions and convictions.
3. Are nonjudgmental.
4. Search for meanings and revelation in such things as symbols, rituals, and life experiences.
5. Can compare and contrast experiences.

Implications for leaders:

1. Be prepared for questions which explore the paradoxes and tensions of faith.
2. Encourage reflective sharing of personal faith-life stories, including defeats and commitments.
3. Encourage “critical” questions about inherited traditions, symbols of faith, and so forth.
4. Invite struggle with mid-life issues of shattered dreams, limits and possibilities of vocation.
5. Affirm dialogical encounter with issues of ministry in the world.
6. Provide opportunities for self-directed learning and affirmation of searching.
7. Involve learners in selecting curriculum based on their expressed needs.
8. Affirm and encourage participants to take leadership roles.



People might view the story as a means to explore deep cosmic, moral and religious questions.