

KOHLBERG'S THEORY OF MORAL DEVELOPMENT



Premoral Level

Stage 1: Punishment-Avoidance and Obedience	Make moral decisions strictly on the basis of self-interests. Disobey rules if can do so without getting caught.
Stage 2: Exchange of favors	Recognize that others have needs, but make satisfaction of own needs a higher priority.

Conventional Level

Stage 3: Good boy/Good girl	Make decisions on the basis of what will please others. Concerned about maintaining interpersonal relations.
Stage 4: Law and order	Look to society as a whole for guidelines about behavior. Think of rules as inflexible, unchangeable.

Principled Level

Stage 5: Social contract	Recognize that rules are social agreements that can be changed when necessary.
Stage 6: Universal ethical principle	Adhere to a small number of abstract principles that transcend specific, concrete rules. Answer to an inner conscience.