

Lawrence Kohlberg's Stages Of Moral Development

Pre-Conventional Level

Stage 1 : Obedience & Punishment

- good is the result of rewards; bad is the result of punishment
- Example : I don't steal cookies because mommy would get mad at me.

Stage 2 : Instrumental Purpose

- good is the result of anyone who gives or receives rewards
- Example : For a cookie, I will clean my room.

Conventional Level

Stage 3 : Interpersonal Conformity (Good Boy / Nice Girl)

- good is whatever brings approval from friends as a peer group
- Example : If my friend does it, I do it.

Stage 4 : Social System Orientation (Law & Order)

- good is what conforms to existing laws, customs, and authorities
- Example : I don't steal because it against the law.

Post-Conventional Level

Stage 5 : Social Contract

- good is whatever conforms to ways of settling problems
- rules are not absolute but are the products of negotiations
- Example : I don't steal because society has made a law against stealing.

Stage 6 : Universal Ethics Principle

- good is whatever is consistent with personal, general moral principles
- doing good is more important than cultural conformity
- Example : I don't steal because it is wrong.