

# Kohlberg's Levels and Stages

## LEVEL 1: PRECONVENTIONAL MORALITY

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

## LEVEL 2: CONVENTIONAL MORALITY

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

## LEVEL 3: POSTCONVENTIONAL MORALITY

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