

# PREMORAL

*No moral development yet. "Me first." Entirely self-centered.*

Appropriate for infants.

Perhaps 4% of adults never get beyond the premoral stage.

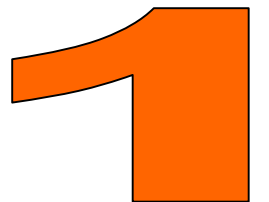
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# PHYSICAL AUTHORITY

*No real understanding of why something is good or bad, why something is allowed or forbidden. Behave as told to just to escape physical punishment.*

Appropriate for pre-school children.

Dictators and criminals may each operate at this stage.



# IT HAS TO BE FAIR

*Rules and expectations have to be the same for everybody all the time. "That's not fair!"*

Normal for elementary school.

Stage two adults make good wheeling and dealing politicians. "You scratch my back and I'll scratch yours."

# PEER PRESSURE

*Opinions of parents or other authorities are not important. Even own opinions become less important. Opinions of friends and other peers are most important.*

Normal at middle school or junior high and on into high school.

# LAW AND ORDER

*Follow the rules, the exact word of the law.  
Rigid. Black and white. Strong sense of duty.*

We hope this stage is developed by the time we allow people to drive cars.

Parents often operate on this level when dealing with their teens.

# SOCIAL CONTRACT

*Rational people working together can come up with reasonable solutions. "Win-win."  
Compromise.*

Not everyone reaches this stage, and those who do may not operate here with any consistency.

# ALTRUISM

*Put other people first. Operate according to principles that go beyond the letter of the law. Demand more of yourself than others demand of you.*

According to Kohlberg, perhaps 4% of adults reach this stage.