



**Sermon Notes**

**for**

***Stages of Faith***

Rev. Rob Jackson

August 1, 2021

# Piaget's Stages of Cognitive Development

This table and the following sections outline Piaget's four stages of cognitive development:

Stage	Age	Key information
The sensorimotor stage	0–2 years	Infants start to build an understanding of the world through their senses by touching, grasping, watching, and listening. Infants develop object permanence (see below).
The preoperational stage	2–7 years	Children develop language and abstract thought. Children begin to use symbolic play (“playing pretend”), draw pictures, and talk about things that happened in the past.
The concrete operational stage	7–11 years	Children learn logical concrete (physical) rules about objects, such as height, weight, and volume. Children learn conservation, the idea that an object, such as water or modeling clay, remains the same even when its appearance changes.
The formal operational stage	11+	Children learn logical rules to understand abstract concepts and solve problems.

## Challenges to the theory

Piaget made many significant contributions to how people think about child development with his theory.

However, it is not without criticisms, such as:

- There is inconsistent evidence for these four stages across different children.
- Evidence suggests that children can perform certain cognitive tasks at a younger age than Piaget suggests is possible.
- Piaget's theory does not account for other influences on cognitive development, such as social and cultural influences.
- Piaget does not specify which psychological processes drive these developmental changes.

Kandola, Aaron. “Piaget's 4 Stages of Development: What Do They Mean?” *Medical News Today*, MediLexicon International, [www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/325030](http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/325030).

# Kohlberg's Theory of Moral Development

"[Kohlberg] followed the development of moral judgment beyond the ages originally studied by Piaget, who claimed that logic and morality develop through constructive stages.

Kohlberg expanded considerably on this groundwork, determining that the process of moral development was principally concerned with justice and that its development continued throughout the lifespan, even spawning dialog of philosophical implications of his research."

Walker, Lawrence J. "A Longitudinal Study of Moral Reasoning." *Child Development*, vol. 60, no. 1, 1989, p. 157., doi:10.2307/1131081.

## Kohlberg's Theory

Level/Stage	Age Range	Description
I: Obedience/Punishment	Infancy	No difference between doing the right thing and avoiding punishment
I: Self-Interest	Pre-school	Interest shifts to rewards rather than punishment – effort is made to secure greatest benefit for oneself
II: Conformity and Interpersonal Accord	School-age	The "good boy/girl" level. Effort is made to secure approval and maintain friendly relations with others
II: Authority and Social Order	School-age	Orientation toward fixed rules. The purpose of morality is maintaining the social order. Interpersonal accord is expanded to include the entire society
III: Social Contract	Teens	Mutual benefit, reciprocity. Morally right and legally right are not always the same. Utilitarian rules that make life better for everyone
III: Universal Principles	Adulthood	Morality is based on principles that transcend mutual benefit.

The Psychology Notes Headquarters - <http://www.PsychologyNotesHQ.com>

I would also highly recommend this video- <https://bit.ly/KohlbergStagesVideo>

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## Challenges:

1. **The dilemmas are artificial-** Many participants were responding to situations to which they could not relate (such as a teenager being asked to consider the ethical debate of an adult parent).
2. **The sample is biased-** There were only men in the study.
3. **The dilemmas are hypothetical-** The questions were based on hypothetical scenarios. People do not takeaways behave the way think they would in a hypothetical situation.
4. **Poor research design**

However, longitudinal research on Kohlberg's theory has since been carried out by Colby et al. (1983) who tested 58 male participants of Kohlberg's original study. She tested them six times in the span of 27 years and found support for Kohlberg's original conclusion, which we all pass through the stages of moral development in the same order.

Mcleod, Saul. "Kohlberg's Theory of Moral Development." *Kohlberg's Theory of Moral Development | Simply Psychology*, [www.simplypsychology.org/kohlberg.html](http://www.simplypsychology.org/kohlberg.html).

Fowler (1981)

Gibson (2004)

Roennfeldt (2009)

	Faith Development Stages [2]	Faith Maturity Levels [4]	Four Fields (Mk 4:26-9) [5]
Experienced	Stage 0 – Undifferentiated Faith Stage 1 – Intuitive-Projective Faith Stage 2 – Mythic-Literal Faith	Level 1 – Accommodation to God’s law out of fear of punishment or hope for reward. Source of Authority: Self-centred	Empty Field – Little knowledge or understanding of faith
Socialised	Stage 3 – Synthetic-Conventional Faith	Level 2 – Imitation of godly exemplars with growing respect for and obedience to Christ. Source of Authority: Other-centred	Sowing Field – Initial instruction in the faith and taking on of the faith tradition of the disciple’s community
Searching	Stage 4 – Individuative-Reflective Faith	Level 3 – Personal, principle centred commitment to Christian worldview. Source of Authority: Principle-centred	Growing Field – Further development in faith understanding, involves questioning of faith tradition and coming to an individual deliberative theology
Integrative	Stage 5 – Conjective Faith Stage 6 – Universalizing Faith	Level 4 – Movement beyond focus on individual piety to the active promotion of corporate piety and the redemption of creation’s sin-stained structures. Source of Authority: Kingdom-centred	Harvest Field – Faith formation reaches a maturity where there is a “lived congruency between our beliefs and how we live” [3], and the disciple is empowered to make more disciples.

Walker, Rebecca. “Spiritual Formation Cycle.” *The Salvation Army*, 27 Nov. 2009, [www.sarmy.org.au/en/resources/articles/making-disciples/spiritual-formation-cycle/](http://www.sarmy.org.au/en/resources/articles/making-disciples/spiritual-formation-cycle/).

Challenges:

No account for jumping between phases.

Not peer reviewed.

**The Service of Worship**  
**Tenth Sunday after Pentecost**  
**August 1, 2021**  
**8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.**

**Prelude**

*I am Thine, O Lord*

I AM THINE

**Welcome and Announcements**

Rev. Amanda Hines

**\*Call to Worship**

Open my lips

**And my mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

You are worthy, our Lord and God,  
to receive glory and honor and power  
for you created all things,  
and by your will they existed and were created.

**Let us worship the Lord!**

**\*Hymn**

#409

*God Is Here!*

ABBOT'S LEIGH

**\*Call to Confession**

Let us come before our God with the confessions of our hearts, first as a community, and then silently as individuals. Let us pray.

**\*Prayer of Confession**

**Holy God, you love us, provide for us, and call us to your purpose. But, all too often we accept your love and your provision without giving thanks, and we give little attention to how you might be calling us to serve you in any given moment. Forgive us, Lord. Help us to have thankful spirits, loving hearts, and a ferocious tenacity to live into the Gospel of Jesus Christ. *(time for silent, individual prayer)***

**We pray this in the name of our savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

## **\*Words of Assurance**

So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! I declare to you in the name of Jesus Christ that you are forgiven.

**Thanks be to God!**

## **\*Congregational Response**

#434

*Restore in Us, O God (verse 1)*

BAYLOR

**Restore in us, O God,  
the splendor of your love;  
renew your image in our hearts,  
and all our sins remove.**

## **Scripture Lesson**

**Jeremiah 31:31-34**

*pew Bible OT p. 691*

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, ‘Know the Lord’, for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Word and Wonder**

Rev. Rob Jackson

## **Scripture Lesson**

**Hebrews 5:11-14**

*pew Bible NT p. 207*

About this we have much to say that is hard to explain, since you have become dull in understanding. For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the basic elements of the oracles of God. You need milk, not solid food; for everyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is unskilled in the word of righteousness. But solid food is for the mature, for those whose faculties have been trained by practice to distinguish good from evil.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Message**

“Stages of Faith”

Rev. Rob Jackson

**\*Affirmation of Faith**

*excerpts from PC(USA) Brief Statement of Faith*

**We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father. In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's image, male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community.**

**But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator. Ignoring God's commandments, we violate the image of God in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care. We deserve God's condemnation. Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation...**

**Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant...Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still.**

**\*Hymn**

*I Come with Joy*

#515

DOVE OF PEACE

**The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper**

Rev. Amanda Hines

**The Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

**Invitation to Offering**

**Offertory Music**

*Precious Lord, Take My Hand*

arr. Wilbur Held

**\*Doxology with Alleluias**

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
praise Christ all people here below;  
Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Praise Holy Spirit evermore, Praise Triune God, whom we adore.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

Rev. Amanda Hines

**\*Hymn**

#726

*Will You Come and Follow Me*

KELVINGROVE

**\*Benediction**

Rev. Rob Jackson

**\*Postlude**

*Celebration March on "To God Be the Glory"*

Grimoaldo Macchia

\* Please stand either in body or spirit.