

TABLE 7.3**Levels of Moral Development**

LEVEL OF MORAL DEVELOPMENT	STAGE OF REASONING
Preconventional	Stage 1: Right is obedience to power and avoidance of punishment.
	Stage 2: Right is taking responsibility and leaving others to be responsible for themselves.
Conventional	Stage 3: Right is being considerate: “Uphold the values of other adolescents and adults’ rules of society at large.”
	Stage 4: Right is being good as defined by the values and norms of family and society at large.
Postconventional	Stage 5: Right is finding an inner “universal rights” balance between self-rights and societal rules—a social contract.
	Stage 6: Right is based on a higher order of applying principles to all humankind; being nonjudgmental and respecting all human life.

Source: Adapted from Kohlberg, L. (1986). The just community approach to corrections. *Journal of Correctional Education*, 37, 57–58.