

## Character, Moral, and Spiritual Development

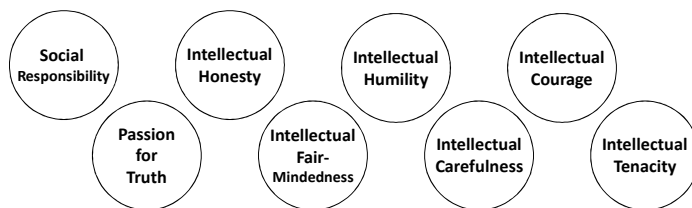
Dr K. A. Korb  
WATS

*Thanks to Dr. David Bjork*

## Outline

- Development of Intellectual Character
- Kohlberg's theory of Moral Development
- Gilligan's theory of Moral Development
- Fowler's Stages of Faith

## Positive Intellectual Habits



Dow, P. E. (2013). *Virtuous minds: Intellectual character development*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

## Intellectual Character

- **Social Responsibility:** Using one's knowledge to act rationally and considerately on behalf of others
  - Hausa: ilimi and basira
  - Zimbabwe: njere and ukaliphile
    - Purposeful, socially responsible behavior that benefits others
  - Chewa (Zambia): ku-chenjela (cognitive alacrity) and ku-tumikila (social responsibility)
    - Ku-cheniela without ku-tumikila is dangerous
- **Passion for Truth:** Unwavering desire to know and truly understand the truth
- **Intellectual Honesty:** Communicating one's knowledge with integrity
- **Intellectual Fair-Mindedness:** Ability to treat all viewpoints alike regardless of one's beliefs or interests
  - There is an "inherent link between intellectual fair-mindedness and listening" (Dow, 2013, p. 52)

## Intellectual Character

- **Intellectual Humility:** Self-forgetfulness of the degree of one's own knowledge and ability
  - "Intellectually humble people see themselves not as owners but as good stewards of the truth" (Dow, 2013, p. 75).
- **Intellectual Carefulness:** Giving sufficient attention to details in order to avoid making errors
  - "It is more from carelessness about truth than intentionally lying that there is so much falsehood in the world." Samuel Johnson
- **Intellectual Courage:** Pursuing truth even when the pursuit of truth or potential truth itself is frightening
- **Intellectual Tenacity:** Working hard and persisting in the thinking process
  - "Genius is one percent inspiration, ninety-nine percent perspiration." Thomas Edison

## Traditional Teaching of Intellectual Character

- Observation
- Correction
- Practical tasks that were monitored
- Storytelling
- Drama

## Theories of Learning and Character Development

- **Operant Conditioning:** Reward for desired character and Punishment for undesired character
- **Cognitive Theories:** Direct teaching of what an aspect of character is and what it looks like in practice
- **Social Learning Theory:** Observation of others' character
- **Situated Cognition:** Experiences to put character into practice

## Lawrence Kohlberg

- Born into a rich family
- Smuggled Jews through a blockade during WWII
- In Palestine during the 1948 Palestine War; focused on nonviolent forms of activism

### Kohlberg's Theory of Moral Development

- Kohlberg presented moral dilemmas to participants and asked them to arrive at an answer and explain Why.
- Proposed three levels of moral development that each have two sub-stages
- Placement at a stage/level is NOT related to the moral choice, but to the reasoning to justify the choice

### Kohlberg's Dilemma

- A woman was near death from cancer. A druggist in the town had recently discovered that a form of radium might save her. The druggist was charging \$2000 – 10 times the cost to make the drug. The woman's husband went to everyone he knew to borrow the money, but he could only get about half of what it cost. He told the druggist that his wife was dying and asked him to sell it cheaper or let him pay later, but the druggist said "No, I discovered the drug and I am going to make money from it." The husband got desperate and broke into the man's store to steal the drug for his wife (Kohlberg, 1969).

### Kohlberg's Theory of Moral Development

- **Level 1 Pre-conventional:** Reasoning for self-serving motives
  - **Stage 1:** Avoid Punishment
  - **Stage 2:** Obtain reward
- **Level 2 Conventional:** Reasoning based on social norms
  - **Stage 3:** Gain approval and avoid disapproval
  - **Stage 4:** Obey set laws ("law and order orientation")
- **Level 3 Postconventional:** Reasoning based on abstract principles (equality, justice, value of life)
  - **Stage 5:** Provide equality in society (obey rules with exceptions to fulfill higher principles)
  - **Stage 6:** Uphold self-chosen ethical principles

### Carol Gilligan

- Protégé of Kohlberg
- Disturbed that women only achieved Stage 3
- Originated **difference feminism:** Women have different moral tendencies but both should be equally valued
- Proposed that justice was men's ethic; caring was women's ethic

### Gilligan's Theory of Moral Development

Stage	Characteristic
Pre-conventional	Individual survival (selfish)
*Transition from selfishness to responsibility to others*	
Conventional	Self-sacrifice
*Transition from goodness to realization that she is a person too*	
Post-conventional	Nonviolence: Do not hurt others or self

### James Fowler

- Director for the Center for Ethics at Emory University
- Involved in the Civil Rights struggle in the US
- Minister in the United Methodist Church
- His wife held a masters degree in Christian Education and was an important influence in his work

### Fowler's Stages of Faith

- Fowler proposed six stages of faith development
- Faith stages are not an achievement goal to rank the value of a person
  - Faith stages are not an educational goal to train individuals
- Education should "aim at the full realization of the potential strength of faith at each stage" (Fowler, 1981, p. 114)

### Fowler's Stages of Faith

Stage	Name	Age*	Characteristics
0	Undifferentiated Faith	0	Faith is tied in with the love and care of caregivers
1	Intuitive-Projective Faith	2-7	Imagination uses stories to create images and feelings related to faith
2	Mythic-Literal Faith	Primary School	Beliefs are interpreted literally
3	Synthetic-Conventional Faith	Adolescence	Faith synthesizes values and provides a basis for identity. A person has an ideology but has not examined it. Images of God are extensions of interpersonal relationships.

### Fowler's Stages of Faith

Stage	Name	Age*	Characteristics
4	Individuative-Reflective Faith	20s	Person steps out of interpersonal relationships that have defined faith. Develops a new self-identity differentiated from others and seeks authenticity between self and ideological commitments.
5	Conjunctive Faith	40s	Seeks a relationship with God that includes God's mystery
6	Universalizing Faith	Rare	Disciplined, activist <i>incarnation</i> ; "spending and being spent for the transformation of present reality in the direction of a transcendent actuality" (Fowler, 1981, p. 200) Negate the self for affirming God

- 'In both traditional and younger churches (of Nigeria) second-generation nominalism is a big problem. Double standards are widespread, and immorality, membership in secret societies and compromise with the world bring strife and disrepute to the gospel'
- '(In Nigeria) extravagant lifestyles and oily showmanship usurp spiritual depth and biblical preaching as indicators of anointing. Instances of corruption, theft, embezzlement and sexual immorality are tragically frequent. Accountability is often absent; the "big man" dynamic plays into the same materialism, pride and carnality that cripple Nigeria politically and economically'
- Jason Mandryk. (2010). Operation World. Colorado Springs, CO: Biblica Publishing.

### Willow Creek *Reveal* Study

- Church activities and programs have failed to produce Christlikeness
  - Time spent in church does not predict spiritual growth
  - Instead, personal spiritual practices predict Christ-centered living

### Willow Creek Reveal Study

- "We should have started ... teaching people that they have to take responsibility to become 'self feeders.' We should have ... taught people how to read their bible between service, how to do the spiritual practices much more aggressively on their own." Hybel, pastor of Willow Creek
- "In other words, spiritual growth doesn't happen best by becoming dependent on elaborate church programs but through the age old spiritual practices of prayer, bible reading, and relationships. And, ironically, these basic disciplines do not require multi-million dollar facilities and hundreds of staff to manage." Bradley Wright, Sociologist

### Why churches often fail to provide for spiritual transformation and discipleship

- The leadership believes numeric growth is an indicator of success
- The leadership believes financial growth is an indicator of success
- The leadership believes the quality of its programming is an indicator of success
- The leadership believes the member's level of participation in programming is an indicator of success
- Transfer growth (from other churches) is as valuable as evangelistic growth
- Belief that a greater variety of programs will attract more participants and induce spiritual growth

### SPIRITUAL FORMATION

- **Spiritual Formation:** The nurturing of the Christian's inner being after the pattern of Jesus the Lord by the indwelling Spirit in the body of Christ, and the living out of the Savior's values in loving service to others
  - Spiritual formation is about becoming like Jesus Christ at the level of values, relationships, and behaviors.
  - Rom 8:29; 2 Cor 3:18; Gal. 4:19; Eph 4:23-24

### Spiritual Formation

- Spiritual formation is:
  - The transformation of every dimension of the self:
    - Mind, will, emotions, morality, relational capacity, actions and behaviors
  - A synergy of the divine initiative and our human response
    - Phil 2:12-13; Eph 5:25; 2 Peter 1:3-9

### Practice Healthy Spiritual Habits

- Spiritual practices regularly undertaken train the spirit in holiness to help us return to the godly path when we stray
  - Disciplines are NOT vehicles for earning favor, but means by which we place ourselves where grace can transform us
- Revolting against legalistic regimens of the medieval church, Protestants devalued the spiritual disciplines
  - However, 1 Tim. 4:7b
  - cf. 1 Cor. 9:25-27; Heb. 5:14

## Healthy Spiritual Habits

- **Silence & solitude:** The state of interior stillness that disposes the heart to hear and receive God
  - Psa 46:10; 131:2; Zech 2:13
  - Our lives are so busy that God can't get our attention long enough to make Himself known
  - Solitude is the furnace of transformation
- **Prayer**
  - 'God ordained prayer not for His sake but for our sake. Prayer cleanses the heart and makes it more receptive to the divine gifts' [Calvin]
  - 'Petition, asking for things, is a small part of prayer. Confession, and petition are its threshold, adoration its sanctuary, the presence, vision and enjoyment of God its bread and wine. In prayer God shows Himself to us' [Lewis]

## Healthy Spiritual Habits

- **Lectio divina** – meditative, prayerful use of Scripture
  - Lectio: deliberate reading the text (Read)
  - Meditatio – thoughtful reflection on what is written (Reflect)
  - Oratio – pray what is read back to the Father (Respond)
  - Contemplatio – attend to the voice of the Spirit through the text (Rest)
  - Incarnatio – live out all that the Word & the Spirit have laid on one's heart
- **Keep a spiritual journal**
  - A record of all God brings into our lives with accompanying insights, emotions and responses (Ps 102:18)
  - A recollection of God's ways, a tool for self-discovery, a rich occasion for dialogue with God
  - A vehicle for transforming encounter with God
  - Read journals of Augustine (Confessions), Teresa of Avila (My Life), Nouwen (Genesee Dairy), etc.

## Healthy Spiritual Habits

- **Examen:** Prayerful reflection of the day/week to identify God's presence and discern his direction for us
  - Pause, seek God's presence
  - Give thanks
  - Review the day
    - When have you felt at peace?
    - When have you felt not-at-peace?
  - Confession
  - Look forward to the day to come