

Moral Decision Making

A man that has lost moral sense is like a man in battle with both of his legs shot off: he has nothing to stand on.

– Henry Ward Beecher

Lesson 40 (page 152) of this section dealt with the stages of Moral Development, according to Kohlberg, and now the final lesson in this section deals with moral decision making. This worksheet will attempt to join together these two lessons.

When conducting his research, Lawrence Kohlberg posed moral dilemmas to his subjects and then asked questions to probe their reasons for recommending a specific course of action. Below is one of Kohlberg’s dilemmas.

The Heinz Dilemma:

A woman is near death from a unique kind of cancer. There is a drug that might save her. The drug costs \$4,000 per dosage. The sick woman’s husband, Heinz, goes to everyone he knows to borrow the money and tries every legal means, but he can only get together about \$2,000. He asks the doctor who discovered the drug for a discount or to let him pay later. But the doctor refuses.

Should Heinz break into the laboratory to steal the drug for his wife? Why or why not?

Using the LISTEN technique, suggested in lesson 51, and try to solve the Heinz dilemma.

1. Learn the facts. List the facts of the case below.

2. Imagine the outcome. List the various scenarios you can think of.

3. Seek insight from elsewhere. What insight was provided by friends, etc.?

4. Turn inward. What insight, if any, did this provide?

SECTION D | LESSON 51 | WORKSHEET 1

5. Expect God’s help. Pray and ask for help. What did you notice?

6. Name your decision. Write below how you would solve Heinz’s dilemma and give reasons for your decision.

Finally:

At which of his six stages of moral development would Kohlberg place your final decision? Go online and search for ‘a solution to the Heinz dilemma’. A good site is <http://www.faculty.plts.edu/gpence/html/kohlberg.htm>