

## PIAGET – MASLOW – FOWLER DEVELOPMENT

| Age Yrs |                           | Piaget's Stages of Cognitive Development  | Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs | Fowler's Stages of Faith*            |  |
|---------|---------------------------|---|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| 0-2     | Sensory-motor             | Use of senses and motor abilities to understand the world.  | Physiological               | 0 – Primal or Undifferentiated faith | Early learning of the safety of their environment.   |
| 2-7     | Pre-operational           | Language, symbols, imagination, magic (eg <b>superstitions</b> , sacrifices to god of rain); <b>egocentric</b> (only <i>my</i> point of view); <b>prejudice</b> (eg, red heads); no manipulation of info yet – <b>no sense of guilt yet</b> | Safety                      | 1 – Intuitive-Projective faith       | Religion is learned through experiences, stories, images, and the people that one comes in contact with.                               |
| 7-11    | Concrete operational      | Problem solving with concrete logic/answers; increase in ability to see perspective of another; inferences from observations to generalizations (eg, following rules & roles)   | Belongingness               | 2 – Mythic-Literal faith             | Strong belief in the justice and reciprocity of the universe, and deities are almost always anthropomorphic.                           |
| 11-20   | Formal [post] operational | Abstract reasoning & manipulations of symbols; can deductively consider outcomes; think about thinking (multi perspectives); trial & error problem solving  | Self-esteem                 | 3 – Synthetic-Conventional faith     | Conformity to religious authority and by the development of a personal identity.   |
| 21+     |                           |   | Self-actualization          | 4 – Individual-Reflective faith      | Stage of angst and struggle. The individual takes personal responsibility for beliefs and feelings.                                    |
| 35+     |                           |   |                             | 5 – Conjunctive faith                | Critical reflection and acknowledgement of paradoxes and transcendent reality behind the symbols.                                      |
| 45+     |                           |   |                             | 6 – Universalizing faith             | What some might call <i>enlightenment</i> . Altruistically creating zones of liberation with universal principles of love and justice. |

\*ultimate concerns? /sb

Jean Piaget (1896-1980) – father of cognitive development

Abraham Maslow (1908-1970)

James W. Fowler (1940-2015), Professor of Theology and Human Development at Emory University.

## **JAMES FOWLER'S STAGES OF FAITH**

- Stage 0 – "Primal or Undifferentiated" faith (birth to 2 years), is characterized by an early learning of the safety of their environment (i.e. warm, safe and secure vs. hurt, neglect and abuse). If consistent nurture is experienced, one will develop a sense of trust and safety about the universe and the divine. Conversely, negative experiences will cause one to develop distrust with the universe and the divine. Transition to the next stage begins with integration of thought and language which facilitates the use of symbols in speech and play.
- Stage 1 – "Intuitive-Projective" faith (ages of three to seven), is characterized by the psyche's unprotected exposure to the Unconscious, and marked by a relative fluidity of thought patterns.[4] Religion is learned mainly through experiences, stories, images, and the people that one comes in contact with.
- Stage 2 – "Mythic-Literal" faith (mostly in school children), stage two persons have a strong belief in the justice and reciprocity of the universe, and their deities are almost always anthropomorphic. During this time metaphors and symbolic language are often misunderstood and are taken literally.
- Stage 3 – "Synthetic-Conventional" faith (arising in adolescence; aged 12 to adulthood) characterized by conformity to authority and the religious development of a personal identity. Any conflicts with one's beliefs are ignored at this stage due to the fear of threat from inconsistencies.
- Stage 4 – "Individuative-Reflective" faith (usually mid-twenties to late thirties) a stage of angst and struggle. The individual takes personal responsibility for his or her beliefs and feelings. As one is able to reflect on one's own beliefs, there is an openness to a new complexity of faith, but this also increases the awareness of conflicts in one's belief.
- Stage 5 – "Conjunctive" faith (mid-life crisis) acknowledges paradox and transcendence relating reality behind the symbols of inherited systems. The individual resolves conflicts from previous stages by a complex understanding of a multidimensional, interdependent "truth" that cannot be explained by any particular statement.
- Stage 6 – "Universalizing" faith, or what some might call "enlightenment". The individual would treat any person with compassion as he or she views people as from a universal community, and should be treated with universal principles of love and justice.