



The Stages of Human Development by Bruce Woolard

There are several phases in human development that are worth considering.

OBSERVATION—1 to 7 years

In the first seven years of a child's life a child learns through observing life and examining items. This observation phase is foundational to a child's sense of discovery and identity.

INFORMATION—7 to 14 years

The child then enters a new phase of the impartation of information at school or other sources.

EXPERIMENTATION—14 to 21 years

The adolescence phase of puberty and youth development is a crisis stage of development. Habits and propensities kick in and one begins experimenting with choices that may damage the rest of their lives. This phase is normal but dangerous and parental care and supervision needs to be non-judgemental and engaging.

MANIPULATION—21 and older

Learning the art of manipulating others to get ones own way is the quest of the ego and desire to project an image or persona that either impresses others or turns people against the manipulator. Manipulation is a behavioural and learned "art" that if it remains and persist will lead to distrust and suspicion.

REALISATION

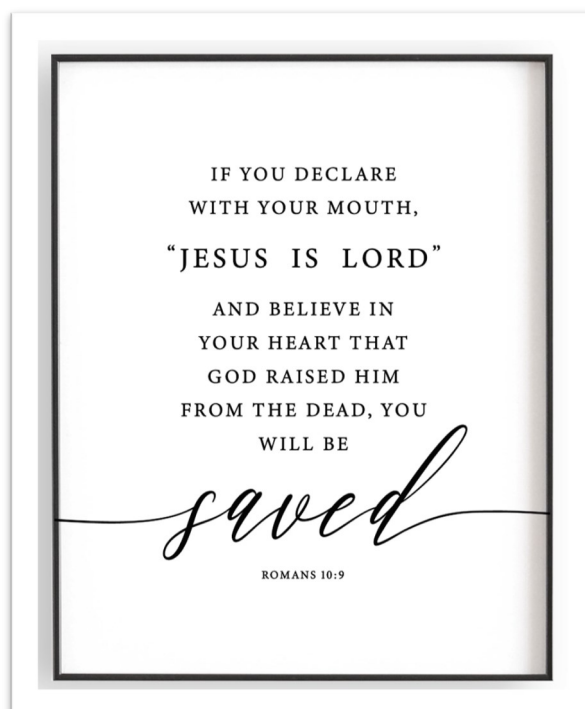
Too often people become entrenched or stuck in the manipulation phase and never enter the realisation stage. One learns to grow out of the primary phase by realising that there is more to life than getting your own way. Realising that the world does not revolve around you. You are not the centre of the universe.

You realise that there is more to life than physical appearance and material wealth. You realise that you are not designed to live on earth forever. You start searching for deeper meaning.

My awakening and realisation came to me when I realised I was lost. I needed a Saviour. I did not need religion. I needed a relationship with the Divine.

The following is a simple but profound formula:

- A. Admit you are lost in need of a Saviour.
- B. Believe that Christ Jesus is the only One who deserves our trust for salvation.
- C. Confess that you are a sinner and accept the merits and credentials of the One who said, "I am the way, the truth, the life. No-one can come to God the Father but through me".



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