The Three Types of Persons

1. Persons of lesser capacity: those concerned about the next life, wishing to be born in higher states.

2. Persons of medium capacity: those who wish to attain liberation from samsara.

3. Persons of great capacity: those who wish to attain omniscience/enlightenment for the benefit of all sentient beings.

N.B. There are two ways to attain omniscience: Paramitayana and Mantrayana (Tantra).
There’s a difference between:

• The *path* of a person of lesser capacity—e.g. refraining from nonvirtue merely to obtain a fortunate rebirth.

and

• The *stages shared with* (or “in common with”) a person of lesser capacity—e.g. refraining from nonvirtue to obtain good rebirths in order to continue following the path to enlightenment.

• Apply the same to medium capacity.
• The purpose of guidance in accordance with the paths of the three types of persons is to show that, for someone aiming for Buddhahood, certain practices of the two lower scopes are preliminaries for the great scope.

• The reason for such gradual guidance is that the attitudes common to persons of initial and middling capacity must be developed in order to develop bodhicitta.

• This gradual way also counteracts conceitedness about being a person of great capacity, and will give rise to excellent qualities.