The problem of whether we should love ourselves – and if so how – is an important yet underinvestigated theme in the writings of Søren Kierkegaard. In *Works of Love*, Kierkegaard argues that the friendships and romantic relationships which we typically treasure most are often merely disguised forms of ‘selfish’ self-love. Yet in this nuanced and subtle account, John Lippitt shows that Kierkegaard also provides valuable resources for responding to the challenge of how we can love ourselves, as well as others. Lippitt relates what it means to love oneself properly to such topics as love of God and neighbour, friendship, romantic love, self-denial and self-sacrifice, trust, hope and forgiveness. The book engages in detail with *Works of Love*, related Kierkegaard texts and important recent studies, and also addresses a wealth of wider literature in ethics, moral psychology and philosophy of religion.

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KIERKEGAARD AND THE PROBLEM OF SELF-LOVE

JOHN LIPPITT
For Sylvie, min elskede, for teaching me so much
about the love that hopes all things
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Abbreviations

In quoting from Kierkegaard’s works, I refer to page numbers of the following editions. In Danish:


Where necessary I have referenced:


The English translations I have used are from the Kierkegaard’s Writings series. Texts from which I explicitly quote, and the sigla used, are detailed below:


List of abbreviations


For references to Kierkegaard’s journals and notebooks, I have cited where possible from the following ongoing translation in eleven volumes:


References are given to the entry numbers used by Kierkegaard and adopted by both SKS and KJN, rather than to page numbers.

I have also cited from the edition in seven volumes known for many years to readers of Kierkegaard in English:


Here I have given both volume and entry number (e.g., JP 3 2425).

Unless otherwise stated, biblical translations are taken from the King James Version. The specific edition used is The King James Study Bible, Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 1988.