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David J. Gouwens
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Making innovative use of Kierkegaard's later religious writings as well as his earlier philosophical works, David Gouwens explores this philosopher's religious and theological thought, focusing on human nature, Christ, and Christian discipleship. He helps the reader approach Kierkegaard as a religious thinker, since Kierkegaard regarded religion as fundamental to his enterprise, and sought to evoke religious dispositions in his audience. Gouwens discusses Kierkegaard's main concerns as an advocate of genuine Christianity; his treatment of religion using the dialectic of "becoming Christian"; and whether the common interpretation of Kierkegaard's religious thought as privatistic and asocial is correct. Gouwens appraises both the edifying discourses and the pseudonymous writings, and studies the particular problems posed by the latter. Situated between foundationalism and irrationalism, Kierkegaard's thought is seen to anticipate the end of "modernity," while standing at the center of the Christian tradition.

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CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS
 Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town, Singapore,
 São Paulo, Delhi, Dubai, Tokyo

Cambridge University Press
 The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge CB2 8RU, UK

Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press, New York

www.cambridge.org
 Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9780521460316

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First published 1996

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

Library of Congress Cataloguing in Publication data

Gouwens, David Jay.
 Kierkegaard as religious thinker
 David J. Gouwens.
 p. cm.

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 0 521 46031 X (hardback) ISBN 0 521 55551 5 (paperback)

1. Kierkegaard, Søren, 1813–1855 – Religion. I. Title.

B4378.R44G68 1996

230'.044'092 – dc20 95–11442 CIP

ISBN 978-0-521-46031-6 Hardback
 ISBN 978-0-521-55551-7 Paperback

Transferred to digital printing 2009

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*To Sharon
and
In Memoriam
Arthur H. Jentz, Jr.
(1934–1993)*

Contents

<i>Acknowledgements</i>	<i>page</i> xi
<i>List of abbreviations</i>	xiii
Introduction	I
1 Diseases of reflection	27
First diagnostic critique of objectivity: dangers inherent in thinking	30
Second diagnostic critique of objectivity: the professionalization of philosophy and religion	39
Subjective thinking	42
2 Anthropological reflection	55
“Anthropological reflection” as religious reflection	56
Kierkegaard’s religious understanding of the self	75
3 Becoming religious: upbuilding before God	93
Becoming a self: forming personal unity	95
Virtue, vision, and will	97
The grammar of “seeing and knowing God”	102
Virtue, ethics, and religion	108
Kierkegaard on religion: polemical points	120
4 Becoming Christian I: responding to Christ in faith	122
The “what” and the “how”	123
Christ as Redeemer and Pattern	127
Offense and the paradox	128
Faith as a “happy passion”	133
Christ and salvation	142
5 Becoming Christian II: suffering and following Christ in hope	153
Expectancy and the origins of hope	154
Despair as hopelessness	155
Hope and repetition	157
The dialectic of hope	158

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-46031-6 - Kierkegaard as Religious Thinker
David J. Gouwens
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

x	<i>Contents</i>	
	The anatomy of suffering	162
	Christian suffering and Christian hope	166
6	Becoming Christian III: love and imitating Christ in works	186
	The dialectic of opposition	186
	Eros and agape; law and gospel	188
	The priority of divine love	192
	Love as human response	197
7	Witness in faith, hope, and love	209
	From hidden inwardness to public stance	213
	The Pattern and the response	216
	Conclusion	229
	<i>Bibliography</i>	233
	<i>Index</i>	244

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-46031-6 - Kierkegaard as Religious Thinker
David J. Gouwens
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

Acknowledgements

A number of friends and institutions have supported me over the course of this endeavor. Paul L. Holmer and Don E. Saliers – both then of Yale – engendered and directed my early interest in Kierkegaard’s thought; to them I owe the basic orientation of this study, and the wonderful example of their passion as teachers. I have also learned much from the scholarship and friendship of members of the Søren Kierkegaard Society, too many to name individually; their stimulation is evident throughout this study. Initial research on what Robert L. Perkins has dubbed Kierkegaard’s “second literature” came from a summer research grant from Brite Divinity School, Texas Christian University. During that summer, the Howard V. Hong and Edna H. Hong Kierkegaard Library at St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minnesota, provided its remarkable resources, housing, and hospitality; Cynthia Lund was most helpful. A further semester’s leave of absence from Texas Christian University enabled initial work on the manuscript; warm thanks are due to the Disciples Divinity House of the University of Chicago for its hospitality, and that university’s library for its research facilities. Dr. David W. Johnson, colleague and friend, took time away from his own teaching and research to read a draft of early chapters. His comments and criticisms were most helpful, as were those of the readers for Cambridge University Press. I am indebted to Alex Wright of Cambridge University Press for his interest in this project and good counsel throughout. Thanks also to my research assistants, Don Bright, who creatively found his way through the intricacies of modern library computing in early stages of this study, and Ben Taylor, who checked citations prior to final publication. Lana Byrd’s superb secretarial skills were invaluable. These colleagues and friends are, of course, not responsible for the views expressed in these pages.

This book is offered in memory of a teacher without parallel, Arthur H. Jentz, Jr., Professor of Philosophy at Hope College, Holland,

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978-0-521-46031-6 - Kierkegaard as Religious Thinker
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Frontmatter
[More information](#)

xii

Acknowledgements

Michigan. No Kierkegaardian, he none the less embodied many of the passions discussed in this book – not least a truly Climacean humor. His premature death is a loss to many.

Without the support and love of my wife Sharon, this book could not have been written. Busy enough with her own writing projects in religion and the visual arts, she always gave of her time, attention, and support, and it is to her that I dedicate this book.

Abbreviations

References to Kierkegaard's writings in the footnotes use the sigla given below, followed by page number, for example, *SUD* 14. (Where possible, and with few exceptions, I employ the new Princeton University Press translations, *Kierkegaard's Writings*, 1978– .) Immediately following this reference, and in parentheses, are the corresponding volume and page numbers in the first Danish edition, *Søren Kierkegaard's Samlede Værker* [*The Collected Works of Søren Kierkegaard*], ed. A. B. Drachmann, J. L. Heiberg, and H. O. Lange, 14 volumes (Copenhagen: Gyldendal, 1901-06). For example, *SUD* 14 (*SV* XI 127).

References to Kierkegaard's journals are from *Søren Kierkegaard's Journals and Papers*, ed. and trans. Howard V. Hong and Edna H. Hong, assisted by Gregor Malantschuk, 7 volumes. Bloomington and London: Indiana University Press, 1967–78. The abbreviation is *JP*, followed by the volume and entry numbers. For example, *JP* I 400. This is immediately followed in parentheses by the location in *Søren Kierkegaards Papirer* [*Søren Kierkegaard's Papers*], I–XI³ and XII–XIII, ed. P. A. Heiberg, V. Kuhr, and E. Torsting, 16 volumes. 2nd edn., augmented, Niels Thulstrup. Copenhagen: Gyldendal, 1968-78. The abbreviation is *Pap.* followed by the volume, group, and entry numbers, and finally by the date. For example, *JP* I 400 (*Pap.* x⁴ A 200, n.d., 1851). *JP* followed by a paginated number refers to an editor's note in that volume rather than an entry. For example, *JP* I, p. 100.

OAR *On Authority and Revelation: The Book on Adler, or a Cycle of Ethico-Religious Essays*, trans. Walter Lowrie, introduction to the Torchbook edition by Frederick Sontag. Harper Torchbooks. The Cloister Library. New York: Harper & Row, 1955; 1966.

- CD* *Christian Discourses*, including *The Lilies of the Field and the Birds of the Air* and *Three Discourses at the Communion on Fridays*, trans. Walter Lowrie. Princeton University Press, 1940.
- CA* *The Concept of Anxiety*, trans. Reidar Thomte in collaboration with Albert B. Anderson. Princeton University Press, 1980.
- CI* *The Concept of Irony, together with "Notes on Schelling's Berlin Lectures,"* trans. Howard V. Hong and Edna H. Hong. Princeton University Press, 1989.
- CUP* *Concluding Unscientific Postscript*, ed. and trans. Howard V. Hong and Edna H. Hong. 2 volumes. Princeton University Press, 1992.
- COR* *The Corsair Affair, and Articles Related to the Writings*, ed. and trans. Howard V. Hong and Edna H. Hong. Princeton University Press, 1982.
- EUD* *Eighteen Upbuilding Discourses*, trans. Howard V. Hong and Edna H. Hong. Princeton University Press, 1990.
- EO* *Either/Or*, trans. Howard V. Hong and Edna H. Hong. 2 volumes. Princeton University Press, 1987.
- FT* *Fear and Trembling*, in *Fear and Trembling and Repetition*, trans. Howard V. Hong and Edna H. Hong. Princeton University Press, 1983.
- FSE* *For Self-Examination*, in *For Self-Examination and Judge for Yourself!*, trans. Howard V. Hong and Edna H. Hong. Princeton University Press, 1990.
- JC* *Johannes Climacus, or De omnibus dubitandum est*, in *Philosophical Fragments and Johannes Climacus*, trans. Howard V. Hong and Edna H. Hong. Princeton University Press, 1985.
- JP* *Journals and Papers*. See above.
- JFY* *Judge for Yourself!*, in *For Self-Examination and Judge for Yourself!*, trans. Howard V. Hong and Edna H. Hong. Princeton University Press, 1990.
- KAUC* *Kierkegaard's Attack Upon "Christendom" 1854–1855*, trans., with introduction, Walter Lowrie. Princeton University Press, 1944.
- Pap.* *Papirer*. See above.
- PF* *Philosophical Fragments*, in *Philosophical Fragments and Johannes Climacus*, trans. Howard V. Hong and Edna H. Hong. Princeton University Press, 1985.

Abbreviations

xv

- PV* *The Point of View for My Work as an Author: A Report to History and Related Writings*, trans. Walter Lowrie, newly edited with a preface by Benjamin Nelson. New York: Harper & Row, 1962.
- PC* *Practice in Christianity*, trans. Howard V. Hong and Edna H. Hong. Princeton University Press, 1991.
- R* *Repetition*, in *Fear and Trembling and Repetition*, trans. Howard V. Hong and Edna H. Hong. Princeton University Press, 1983.
- SV* *Samlede Værker*. See above.
- SUD* *The Sickness Unto Death*, trans. Howard V. Hong and Edna H. Hong. Princeton University Press, 1980.
- SUD* *The Sickness Unto Death*, trans. Alastair Hannay. London: Penguin Books, 1989.
- SLW* *Stages on Life's Way*, ed. and trans. Howard V. Hong and Edna H. Hong. Princeton University Press, 1988.
- TDIO* *Three Discourses on Imagined Occasions*, ed. and trans. Howard V. Hong and Edna H. Hong. Princeton University Press, 1993.
- TA* *Two Ages: The Age of Revolution and the Present Age: A Literary Review*, trans. Howard V. Hong and Edna H. Hong. Princeton University Press, 1978.
- UG* "The Unchangeableness of God," in *For Self-Examination and Judge for Yourselves! and Three Discourses 1851*, trans. with introduction and notes, Walter Lowrie. Princeton University Press, 1941.
- UDVS* *Upbuilding Discourses in Various Spirits*, ed. and trans. Howard V. Hong and Edna H. Hong. Princeton University Press, 1993.
- WL* *Works of Love: Some Christian Reflections in the Form of Discourses*, trans. Howard and Edna Hong, preface R. Gregor Smith. Harper Torchbooks. The Cloister Library. New York: Harper & Row, 1962.