

## **Abstract**

This text explores the question of reasons for morality and the related issues, particularly the nature and the source of moral motivation. First, I elaborate the metaphysical distinction between subjective and objective, which concerns the status of moral reasons and the extent to which a human agent is involved in their genesis. Next, I raise some questions about moral motivation and I introduce briefly some contemporary views on these issues. Major part of the work is dedicated to the exposition of Kierkegaard's position, which combines subjective motivation for ethics (avoidance of personally perceived symptoms of despair) and objectively grounded reasons for morality (sin). Philosophers interested in moral motivation typically look for fundamental moral principles and compelling arguments in favour of being moral, but Kierkegaard turns the attention of his readers to the task of their own selves. His pseudonyms do not look for an objective moral principle, they show why the ethical life-view is essential for attainment of true selfhood. In this work, I compare some contemporary accounts of moral motivation to Kierkegaard's, I comment critically on some interpretations of Kierkegaard and differentiate between different aspects of reason for choosing the ethical life, implied in his pseudonymous work.

**Key words:** subjectivity, objectivity, reason, ethics, choice, moral motivation, despair, the self