

# Development of the Concept of Ethics from Søren Kierkegaard's Viewpoint in Facing Three Spheres of Life

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## Abstract

Even if Kierkegaard in his thoughts accords a special status to ethics as one of the spheres of life, this does not mean that ethics plays no role in the aesthetic and religious stages. Since ethics manifests itself in them, it is insufficient to offer just one single interpretation of the ethical – which appears to take the form of morality based on the universal – in order to understand comprehensively the ethical in Kierkegaard's thought. Thus it is appropriate to explore the ethical in a broad range of his works so as to highlight its neglected aspects which are not necessarily compatible with the common account of the ethical as the universal. Explicating these different aspects, this article seeks to provide a more inclusive account of the ethical in other spheres of life than the common account. To do so, it examines the roles and functions of the ethical in three spheres of aesthetics, ethics, and religion separately, and explains their similarities and dissimilarities.

## Keywords

The ethical, sphere of religion, sphere of aesthetics, Søren Kierkegaard, leap, existentialism.

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