

# Jakob Lorber Bulletin

## International



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**Friends of the Jesus Revelation**, as revealed by the scribe and prophet Jakob Lorber and Gottfried Mayerhofer, feel connected to all people worldwide as creatures and children of one and the same heavenly Father. This Father, who embodied Himself in Jesus Christ about 2,000 years ago, acted as Savior and Teacher from the age of 30 for a period of three years.

The spiritual friends of this Divine Revelation recognize in this perennial message a renewed and exalted expression of the Word of God, as also expressed in the Biblical Gospel of John. They seek a joyful and worldwide exchange of insights and experiences around this revelation.

**SELF-REFLECTION - SELF-EXAMINATION**

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We have previously dedicated a theme to LOVE. This time, the subject is illuminated again from other angles, drawing on various spiritual perspectives including those of Mayerhofer/Lorber and Swedenborg, as well as the Biblical foundation.



### What is Love?

The book *"Love as the Constitution"* (Liefde als Grondwet) by Mayerhofer offers a profound spiritual vision in which love is presented as the ultimate law governing life and creation.

Love is the core of God the Father, the creative force that sustains all existence. It is the foundation of all universal laws and the only true force that brings everything into harmony.

Human beings have been given free will to consciously choose love, which leads to spiritual growth and a deeper connection with God. Misusing this free will, through egoism and hatred, causes both inner and outer disharmony. Love must be applied practically in daily life, including loving God and others, despite their shortcomings.

Practical love manifests itself in service, compassion, forgiveness, and selflessness. Egoism, the greatest enemy of love, separates people from God and others, while selfless love clears the way for inner liberation and unity with divine harmony. Love has the power to overcome negative emotions and conflicts, bringing peace to both individuals and the world. It is the key to spiritual fulfillment and eternal life, and following God's loving example leads to a life of harmony and connectedness.

At the end of life, people are judged not on knowledge or achievements but on how well they have turned love into deeds. The book calls for an inner transformation, where love forms the foundation of every thought, action, and relationship.

Love and the heart are intimately connected. True love, however, has nothing to do with sensual or sexual love.

Mayerhofer records that the Lord says: "The sexual love you know and practice on earth is often misunderstood and abused. Not this kind of love, as it is generally understood, is the message I bring, but I, who embody Love Itself, am the fundamental tone of all creation, on which all universal laws rest."

"There must be a lawgiver who has regulated everything in this way. The laws are of divine nature; the judgment about them is of human origin."

All developments unfold gradually, step by step, without sudden violence. This is the manifestation of love's gentleness. Every transition is gradual, even during the dying process.

Gentleness is a fundamental principle of love. "As in falling asleep, even in death, a self-aware person is slowly led to the spiritual realm, where they begin their life as a spirit."

"Love also possesses permanence. My love created worlds and beings, not to rule over them, but to receive love in return from them." Love, therefore, seeks reciprocal love. If a person errs in life, they can and must regain their own dignity. "No one is superior to another, regardless of their birth or circumstances."

"All people are brothers and sisters! Love seeks only to make people happy and never to put them to shame, even if it had the right to do so!" Love your enemies and do good to all, including your neighbors and enemies. The Lord reminds us to always be mindful to do good, alleviate suffering, comfort, and help. Our love must ascend degree by degree towards the Lord to ennoble our own spirit and soul.

"It is only the intimacy of that love that you find hard to maintain, because earthly social circumstances continually cloud your spiritual vision." Furthermore, it is said: "Man, as I

created him, was very different from how you are now; all of nature obeyed him, and he knew only the rule of love. Hate had to remain far from him."

"Be as gentle and patient with animals as you are with your neighbors!"

We are meant to become worthy citizens of God's spiritual world and His children. However, the Lord says this is not easily achieved. It requires a spirit of sacrifice and a great sense of humanity. Regarding becoming a child of the Lord, it is written: "Before I grant someone this title, they must at least strive for and acquire some of My characteristics during their short life journey."

"These are laws of love that make you nobler. Anyone who fails to comply with them punishes only themselves, making progress more difficult and creating circumstances that are not always pleasant."

Love calls for reciprocal love.

The Lord says: "As My second coming approaches, I make Myself known again through My servants, handmaidens, writers, and speakers, to reveal My love anew and guide humanity so they do not neglect the path, the goal, and their spiritual task."

"In every atom, a spark of My divine love is hidden, awaiting its further development according to the laws of love, completing its circuit."

Even if human beings must endure bitter suffering and struggle, they should not see it as merely the result of earthly circumstances. Rather, they must view it as part of their schooling for a higher life, where the temptations of the material world must be overcome before the spiritual can be fully understood.

The material world seeks the spiritual, and the spiritual seeks the divine.

Is there value in confronting everyone with the Jakob Lorber works (or Mayerhofer)? The Lord says: "You don't immediately rush at someone. You don't blind them with the sun of grace all at once. You see if they can tolerate a small ray of light and how they absorb it!"

It is unwise to overload someone with everything. The Lord says: "By prematurely and excessively giving, you may distance a soul from Me, whom I wanted to lead through the path of need. If you had given moderately, you would have helped them in the moment and done no harm for the future. But it is dangerous to relieve someone of all their worries at once."

Is it beneficial for someone to live their entire life in a monastery? The Lord says: "What is the result of monastic life? Many scandals have occurred within those walls that should be dedicated to Me. Practice charity in the spirit of your Savior."

With His coming to Palestine, the Lord restored humanity to its spiritual dignity.

All of humanity, good or bad, is your neighbor, according to Luke 10 in the Bible. Though the Lord loves all of us, why does He not answer many prayers?

The Lord says: "I do not give you everything you ask of Me. Often, I withhold things because they would be spiritually harmful to you. If I do not answer your pleas, even in misfortune, it is always out of fatherly love—a love that created everything for your sake, endured much for your sake, and still always rewards insult, scorn, and denial with love."

**Gentleness is a fundamental principle of love.** "As in falling asleep, even in death, a self-aware person is slowly led to the spiritual realm, where they will begin their life course as a spirit." Love also possesses the quality of permanence. "My love created worlds and beings, not to rule over them, but to receive love in return from them." Love, therefore, seeks reciprocal love. If a person errs in their way of life, they can and must independently regain their own dignity. "No one is superior to another, regardless of the subordinate position assigned to them by birth or circumstance."

"All people are brothers and sisters! Love seeks to make people happy and never to shame them, even when it has the right to do so!" Love your enemies and do good to your neighbors, including your enemies. The Lord says we must always be mindful to do good, alleviate suffering, comfort, and help. Our love must ascend degree by degree toward the Lord, ennobling our own spirit and soul.

"It is the depth of that love that is difficult to maintain, because earthly social circumstances continually cloud your spiritual vision." Furthermore, it is said: "Man, as I created him, was very different from how you are now; all of nature obeyed him, and he knew only the rule of love. Hate had to remain far from him."

"Be as gentle and patient with animals as you are with your neighbors!" We are meant to become worthy citizens of His spiritual world and His children. The Lord says that this is not as easily acquired as we might think. It requires a spirit of sacrifice and a great sense of humanity. Regarding becoming a child of the Lord, it is written: "Before I grant someone this title, they must at least strive for and acquire some of My characteristics, as much as is possible for them during their short life journey..."

"These are laws of love that make you nobler. Anyone who fails to comply with them punishes only themselves, making progress more difficult and finding themselves in less favorable circumstances." (Source: 1st Chapter: Love as the Constitution)

### **Love Calls Forth Reciprocal Love**

The Lord says: "Now that My Second Coming is near, I make Myself known again through My servants and handmaidens, through My writers and speakers, to reveal My love for people anew, to guide and lead them, so that they do not neglect the way, the goal, and their spiritual task as human beings."

The Lord says: "In every atom lies a love-breath of My divine Self hidden, which also awaits its further development according to the laws of love, and every spark of love can complete its circuit."

"Even if a person has to endure bitter suffering and much struggle on their life path, they should not regard them purely as consequences of earthly, social circumstances, but should

see them as necessary for their schooling for a higher life, whereby the temptations of the material world must first be overcome before the spiritual can be fully contained and understood in all its importance." (Source: Chapter 2)

The material strives for the spiritual, and the spiritual strives for the divine.

It feels no desire for: "What was I?" but only a fervent desire for: "What am I becoming?"

Is there any use in confronting "everyone" with the Jakob Lorber Works (or Mayerhofer)? Regarding winning someone over to the Lord, it is said: "You don't just immediately rush in on someone, do you? You don't suddenly turn the eye of the blind to the sun of grace, but you look to see if they can tolerate a small ray of light and how they absorb it!"

It is not good to suddenly overload someone with everything, the Lord says: "By prematurely and excessively giving, you may have distanced a soul from Me, whom I wanted to lead to Me through the way of need. If you had given moderately, you would have helped for that moment and done no harm for the future, but it is dangerous to, for example, relieve a poor person of all their worries at once! Give only as much as you deem appropriate given the circumstances, and then leave the rest to Me."

Is it beneficial for a person to live their entire life in a monastery? What does the Lord say about this? "What is the result of a monastic life? Where were more scandals committed than precisely within those walls that should be dedicated to Me? Practice charity in the spirit of your Savior."

The Lord restored humanity to its spiritual dignity through His coming to Palestine 2,000 years ago. (Source: Chapter 3)

All of humanity, good or bad, is your neighbor, according to Luke 10 in the Bible. Although the Lord loves all of us without exception, how is it that He does not answer many prayers at all?

"Yet I do not give you everything you ask of Me, because you often ask for something that would be spiritually harmful to you. And if I do not answer your pleas even in times of misfortune, sorrow, pain, and struggle, it is always out of fatherly love for you—a love that created everything for your sake, endured much for your sake, and still always rewards insult, scorn, and denial with love."

### **The Lord's Answer to Unanswered Prayers**

The Lord says: "Yet I do not give you everything you ask of Me; I do not fulfill your pleas—why? Because you often ask for something that would be spiritually harmful to you. If I do not answer your pleas, even in the case of misfortune, sorrow, pain, and struggle, it is always out of fatherly love for you—a love that created everything for your sake, endured much, and still always rewards insult, scorn, and denial with love."

"This is the love with which I rule My worlds from My wisdom!"

### **Wrongful Self-Love and Suicide**

According to the Lord, there are people who hold worldly views, lack faith, and prematurely end their lives. "Such souls, however, will have to travel a longer and more arduous path to maturity on the other side because they departed from this world unripe and entered another unripe. This condition is often caused by wrong upbringing, disbelief in God, a continued life of the soul, or mental disorders."

This reflects a lack of spiritual self-love, which leads to spiritual destruction. An animal never exceeds the boundaries of its physical self-love, but humans, with excessive attachment to material well-being, regard their physical health as the highest good. These people are at the lowest spiritual level and seek only personal pleasure, excluding any neighborly love.

### **The Purpose of Earthly Life**

The purpose of earthly life is shaped by the individual's choices and actions. We must live it by following a golden mean. Therefore, we must first bring our self-love into harmony with our higher purpose and keep this in mind with every action. We must learn to recognize our own weaknesses and, subsequently, be understanding toward others. The Lord wants to educate us but not spoil us.

### **Distinctions in Love: Brotherly, Neighborly, and Human Love (Chapter 5)**

In Chapter 5 of *Brotherly Love, Neighborly Love, and Human Love*, the book *Love, the Constitution* by Mayerhofer provides important guidelines on the distinctions between these three loves: "You must not love the one who is your brother by bodily kinship more than your neighbor, and you must love people in general as your brothers!"

"You overload your children, brothers, sisters, and other relatives with benefactions and gifts, while you send away your poor human brother who knocks on your door with only a few nice words or a small donation."

"If you count on gratitude in your actions, you will generally receive much less recognition from your relatives than from completely strangers."

"A blood relationship naturally creates a strong bond between souls, a bond that connects the various descendants of one and the same head of the family. This was the most intimate, truest, and most sincere bond in the oldest times. But times and people have changed. Today, people have strayed far from the primal source of selfless love, with which family members loved each other even in the time of Adam, when the property of one was the common possession for all."

### **Forgiveness, Divine Boundaries, and the Two Pillars of Love**

The Lord says:

"It is only in the higher realms that man enters his true dignity; there are no unforgivable mistakes there, everything is purely forgiveness. Even the greatest villain encounters there not an angry, but a compassionate look; no vengeful sword, but the brotherly hand of someone who stands in compassion with him, not in judgment, and who does not wish to let him fall but seeks to embrace him."

In Heaven, there is no longer any evil that needs to be separated, as the gall in the body serves to separate the food from the poorer substances. In the highest heaven, people will be elevated to divine children, who may serve in privileged ways and live close to the Lord. In His creation, everything is regulated so that every transgression of the laws, whether moral or physical, is spontaneously corrected.

The Lord says that it is not easy to be human in the way He intended, and it is much more difficult to be His child. A striking sentence in this chapter states that if we, as prospective children of the Lord, act accordingly throughout our life, we make our earthly self into a reflection of our divine self.

The Lord established the two commandments of love as the two pillars on which His entire creation rests. The more we understand His commandments, the more we will be able to give love to others.

"Love God above all else!" This is the first commandment of love. What does this mean? It means that man must always act according to the Father's will in every circumstance he may face.

"Love your neighbor as yourself!" This is the second commandment of love. Here, love for God is proven by deeds and can be tested in relation to the neighbor. The saying, "Do not do to others what you would not want done to yourself," is fitting here.

We should act towards our neighbor in such a way that our love for God is the foundation, and neighborly love is its expression. The Lord reminds us: "Do not worry about the circumstances in which you must live. Those circumstances are partly My work; through your own actions, you can imprint the stamp of divinity upon them. It is not the deed itself that ennobles your heart, but the will with which you performed that deed."

We must accept people as they are, and we cannot demand that they be as they should be. We must live among people. "Only in tolerating their weaknesses does your spiritual strength grow. By isolating yourself from them, you gain nothing, for your spirit does not advance!"

The Lord points out that we should not give everything away, so that we always retain the means to continue doing good. He says, among other things: "In Me, as well as in My entire creation, love is governed and limited by wisdom. If love were allowed to work on its own, the world would have long ceased to exist; it would have been destroyed, and that out of love! It is wisdom that regulates this boundless divine quality..."

Love seeks only to spread happiness and bliss. But God loves us so intensely that He must restrain Himself, otherwise we could not live. Love in man must also be limited in a certain sense, just as the Lord is limited for all creatures. However, we must love the Lord above all, and our fellow man as ourselves.

The Lord says: "Thus My children must prove that they are the ones whom I have chosen to keep My teaching not merely on paper, but in their hearts, and from there to adorn the words with deeds." We must therefore carefully examine whether we have sufficiently completed the school of humility. Every person must strengthen themselves—for the spiritual struggle—so as not to miss the rebirth of the spirit. Therefore, do not let go of the Lord, for He is worth

the worldly suffering, should it befall you. Love conquers, as Jesus also said on the cross: "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do!"

The Lord has set wise boundaries for love. The Earth, or matter, wherever it may be in the vast infinite universe, is a necessary form that has been interposed, about which the Lord says: "...so that it would be the mediator and calming force, which admittedly imposes limitations on the urge of love, but thereby maintains and promotes it."

Through these material boundaries, the Lord shows us an infinite ladder, about which He says:

"Along that ladder you can indeed climb ever higher, and you will increasingly learn to feel and endure the bliss of love. But it will never lead to complete saturation, for that would mean your death, not your life! Therefore, love, and love as intensely as you can! Love Me, yes, love Me in your neighbors, who are your spiritual brothers and sisters, and love Me in nature. The more you love—spiritually love—the more beautiful the world will become for you and the more you will experience."

### **The True Path to the Father's Heart**

The Lord says: "It is only up there that man enters his true dignity; there are no unforgivable mistakes there, everything is purely forgiveness. Even the greatest villain encounters not an angry, but a compassionate look; no vengeful sword, but the brotherly hand of someone equal to him, who does not want to let him fall, but desires to press him to his heart."

The true path to the Father's heart lies in the practice of neighborly love. The more you help others, the more you yourself will be helped. It may sound miraculous when the Lord says He will one day show us: "How wise and sensible it is of Me to set boundaries for love, because only in this way has it become a distributor of life and warmth, instead of a destructive force." (End of Part 1 of 2 from the book: *Love, the Constitution of all Life*)

### **Summary: Key Principles of 'Love as the Constitution'**

The book emphasizes the deep spiritual and divine significance of love, as described in the words of the Lord through Jakob Lorber and Mayerhofer.

Core Concepts:

- Love is the core of God's being and the fundamental tone of creation.
- It is not about sensual love, but about selfless, universal love focused on the well-being of others.
- All laws in the universe are based on love and gentleness.
- Life transitions, such as death, proceed gradually and lovingly.
- Love shows patience and understanding toward both people and animals.
- Love desires reciprocal connection, but never through coercion.
- True love is durable and transcends temporary material limitations.
- All people, including enemies, are our neighbors and deserve love and help.
- Love for God and love for fellow man are the foundations of a virtuous life.

Practical Application and Wisdom:

- We must help others with measure and wisdom, without overwhelming them or making them dependent.
- Souls are guided in their growth, where gentle guidance is important.
- Becoming a Child of God is a process of sacrifice, self-reflection, and striving for spiritual purity.
- Life on earth is a school where trials contribute to the development of the soul.
- Material matters must serve the spiritual; only by walking a golden mean can we grow.
- God's wisdom sets boundaries for love so that it works constructively, not destructively.
- Love requires deeds such as forgiveness, tolerance, and helpfulness.
- By loving and helping others, we grow spiritually ourselves and experience God's presence in our lives.

The book concludes with the message that love is a continuous journey on the "infinite ladder" toward unity with God. Love in action is the key to spiritual fulfillment and true life.

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## What Swedenborg Says About Love

Emanuel Swedenborg (1688–1772) developed a profound teaching on love, often in conjunction with wisdom, which forms the essence of God and the foundation of creation.

The essence of God (the Lord) is pure Divine Love and Divine Wisdom.

- **Correction:** "The essence of God (the Lord) is Divine Love and Divine Wisdom" – The phrase "pure" might be redundant since these attributes of God are already understood as pure in their nature.

Divine Love is God's Being (His Will). Divine Wisdom is His Form (His Understanding) through which this love operates and creates.

- **Clarification:** The distinction is fine, but consider rephrasing for better flow: "Divine Love represents God's Will, while Divine Wisdom is His Form or Understanding through which Love operates and brings creation into existence."

The entire universe, both spiritual and physical, is created from this Divine Love through Divine Wisdom. Love is the very life of man.

- **Suggestion:** "The entire universe, both spiritual and physical, is created through Divine Love and Divine Wisdom. Love is the very essence of life for humanity."

The essence of Divine Love is to love others and to become conjoined with them. It is the desire to give what is one's own to others and to experience their joy as one's own joy.

- **No correction needed.** This sentence is clear and well-structured.

Charity (Love for the Neighbor) is the internal essence of the Church and is inseparable from Faith. Faith without Charity is not true faith. Charity is practiced by leading a useful life, fulfilling duties, and performing "good deeds" (not for one's own praise, but for the sake of doing good).

- **Suggestion:** This paragraph is good, but you could add a bit of clarity: "Charity, or Love for the Neighbor, is the internal essence of the Church and is inseparable from Faith. Faith without Charity is not true faith. Charity is expressed by leading a useful life, fulfilling duties, and performing good deeds—not for personal praise, but for the sake of benefiting others."

### **Wisdom and Love:**

Love must always be united with Wisdom. The act of love must be directed toward what is genuinely good and useful for the other person.

- **No correction needed.** This is a strong point, though the phrase "the act of love" could be expanded to "the expression of love" for better clarity.

For Swedenborg, love is not just an emotion, but the essence of existence and the driving force of God. Through choices in daily life, man must set aside the lower, selfish loves (Love of Self) to allow the higher, unselfish loves (Love for the Lord and Charity) to enter, leading to regeneration and eternal happiness.

- **Clarification:** This section is well written, but the phrase "the lower, selfish loves (Love of Self)" might be better as "selfish desires (Love of Self)" to match more precisely with Swedenborg's terminology.

### **Comparison with Jakob Lorber on Love**

The comparison between the spiritual teachings of Emanuel Swedenborg and Jakob Lorber on love is very illuminating, as both speak of a "new revelation" and see Love as the Essence of God.

In both teachings, the purpose of human love must be usefulness (service, works) for the neighbor, and not directed toward self-interest. They fundamentally distinguish between heavenly/unselfish love (directed toward God and the neighbor) and earthly/selfish love (directed toward the Self and the world), with the latter being the source of all evil.

- **No correction needed.** This is a clear and concise statement.

The spiritual growth of man (regeneration or rebirth) is achieved in both systems by doing good out of love for God and the neighbor, and by counteracting selfish tendencies (the 'own-love').

- **Suggestion:** "In both systems, spiritual growth (regeneration or rebirth) is achieved by performing good deeds out of love for God and the neighbor, while counteracting selfish tendencies (referred to as 'self-love')."

Swedenborg: Love and Wisdom are as heart and lungs in the Spirit. They must grow simultaneously and be in perfect balance in the process of regeneration.

- **No correction needed.** This sentence is accurate.

Lorber: Love is the goal and Wisdom (Knowledge) is the means. Lorber often emphasizes that a small amount of warm Love is worth more than a large amount of cold Knowledge/Wisdom. The emphasis is first on the heart (Love) and only then on the understanding (Knowledge).

- **Suggestion:** "Lorber teaches that Love is the goal and Wisdom (Knowledge) is the means. He often emphasizes that even a small amount of warm love is more valuable than a vast amount of cold knowledge. The focus is first on the heart (Love) and only then on the mind (Understanding)."

### **Swedenborg vs. Lorber on Love: Structure vs. Warmth**

While Swedenborg offers a systematic and philosophically profound framework, where Love and Wisdom are in perfect balance as the laws of the spiritual world, Lorber provides a more direct and warmer perspective, in which the Love of God the Father is central as a passionate longing for man, and Jesus is the personal Teacher who shows us the way of Love.

Both see Love as the only gate to heaven, but Swedenborg emphasizes the structure of that gate, while Lorber emphasizes the warmth of Love necessary to pass through it.

- **Suggestion:** "While Swedenborg offers a systematic and philosophically profound framework, in which Love and Wisdom are in perfect balance as the laws of the spiritual world, Lorber presents a more direct and warmer perspective. In Lorber's view, the Love of God the Father is a passionate longing for humanity, and Jesus is the personal Teacher who shows us the way of Love."

This revision improves the parallel structure between Swedenborg and Lorber's viewpoints.

### **Swedenborg's Definition of Divine Love (Heaven and Hell)**

The following quote comes from his work *Heaven and Hell*, in which he explains the nature of Divine Love as the source of all life and the essence of God Himself:

"The Lord, Because He is Love Itself, is received by the angels in heaven and by men on earth in no other form than by love. Love is the receiving form of life, and the Will of man is the seat of love. The Essence of Divine Love is: to love others outside of Himself, to experience the joy of others as His own joy, and to desire to be conjoined with them. For the Lord wills that all should be conjoined with Him and that His joy should be theirs. This is the essence of Love Itself, by which God maintains heaven and the human race."

— Emanuel Swedenborg, *Heaven and Hell* (De Caelo et Inferno, HH 17)

- **Suggestion:** This part is accurate and well-written, but the phrase "the Essence of Divine Love is: to love others outside of Himself" might be simplified to "the Essence of Divine Love is to love others outside of oneself." This is a minor stylistic adjustment for consistency.

## Love is the Receiving Form

Man can only receive the Divine (Life) through the path of Love.

- **Correction:** "Man can only receive the Divine (Life) through Love."

The Will is the seat: Love resides in the Will of man. This means that true love is not just a feeling, but a decision and an active act of the will.

- **Suggestion:** This is clear, but could be slightly rephrased for emphasis: "The Will is the seat of Love, which means true love is not merely a feeling, but a conscious decision and an active exercise of the will."

## Loving Others Outside Himself

This is the crucial point of unselfishness. Divine Love is essentially the desire to give and communicate without expecting anything in return.

- **Clarification:** "This is the essential nature of unselfishness. Divine Love is fundamentally the desire to give and communicate, without expecting anything in return."

## The Height of Divine Love

The height of Divine Love is experiencing the joy of others as if it were one's own joy. This is the basis for true Charity (Naastenliefde).

- **Suggestion:** "The highest expression of Divine Love is experiencing the joy of others as one's own. This is the foundation of true Charity (Naastenliefde)."

## Connecting Force

Love is the force that connects. God wants to be connected with man and wills that people be connected with each other (the 'Communion' or 'Heaven').

- **Clarification:** "Love is the force that connects all. God desires to be united with man and wills that people be connected with each other in communion (Heaven)."

### Swedenborg's View of Divine Love

In Swedenborg's view, the Lord's Love is thus a dynamic, giving, and connecting force that permeates the entire universe.

- **No correction needed.** This is a strong concluding point.

### Biblical Foundation for Love and Wisdom

The teachings of Swedenborg and Lorber on love—that God is Love, that it concerns Charity, and that this is expressed in doing Good (Use)—are deeply rooted in the Biblical source text. Here are the main Bible quotes that directly support the themes discussed:

- **Clarification:** The structure here is good, but it would help to make it clear that these are the biblical foundations for **both** Swedenborg's and Lorber's teachings.

#### 1. God is Love (The Essence of God)

The idea that God in His essence is Love (Swedenborg's Divine Love) is most explicitly and powerfully stated in the letters of John:

1 John 4:8: "Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love."

1 John 4:16: "We have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him."

John 3:16 (Love shown in giving): "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son..."

- **No correction needed:** The biblical quotes are accurate and support the core idea.

#### 2. The Two Pillars of Love (Love for the Lord and Neighbor)

The duality in love (Love for the Lord and Love for the Neighbor) as the two pillars of the law (Swedenborg's focus on two-in-one unity) is emphasized by Jesus Himself:

Matthew 22:37-39: "Jesus answered, 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'"

Romans 13:8, 10: "Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the whole law." (...) "Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law."

- **No correction needed:** These verses are well-chosen and are central to both Swedenborg's and Lorber's teachings on love.

### 3. Love in Deeds and Usefulness (Utility)

Love is not limited to words but extends to deeds of usefulness, and this appears throughout the New Testament:

1 John 3:18: "Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth."

1 Corinthians 16:14: "Let all that you do be done in love." (Referring to practical matters and works).

Galatians 6:10: "So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone..."

James 1:27: "Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world." (Emphasis on practical service to the most needy).

- **No correction needed:** These verses are excellent in highlighting love's action through service and usefulness.

### 4. Love is Greater than Knowledge (Paul's Teaching)

Swedenborg's and Lorber's idea that Love (the willing) is more important than faith/knowledge (the knowing), and that it validates faith, is most famously expressed in Paul's letter:

1 Corinthians 13:1-3: "If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing."

#### The Biblical Conclusion

The verse **1 Corinthians 13:13** states:

**"And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love."**

These Bible quotations form the foundation for the theological insights of both Swedenborg and Lorber: Love is God, it is the highest duty, and it must express itself in actual, useful service to the neighbor.

- **Minor suggestion:** "These Bible quotations form the basis for the theological elaborations of both Swedenborg and Lorber" can be more succinctly phrased as "These Bible quotations form the foundation for the theological insights of both Swedenborg and Lorber."

### Love in the Heavenly Language

Finally, let's discuss love in the heavenly language:

The Hebrew word for love, אָהָבָה (Ahavah), is composed of letters with numerical values that sum up as follows:

- **(Aleph = 1) + (He = 5) + (Bet = 2) + (He = 5) = 13.**

The number 13 signifies, in addition to love, unity (13:00 / 1 o'clock represents a cyclical unit), and there are **13 attributes of mercy** in Jewish tradition.

Note the striking connection between the numerical value of **Ahava** (13) and the chapter and verse references: **1 Corinthians 13:13** and **1 Corinthians 13:1-3**.

- **Suggestion:** The phrase "**13:00 / 1 o'clock** represents a cyclical unit" is a bit unclear and could be simplified to avoid confusion. A clearer phrasing could be: "The number 13 also symbolizes unity and cyclical completeness."

## Final Notes

This concludes the translation of the provided text segments from the spiritual works on the nature of love. Would you like a final, concise summary of all the key definitions of love presented in these texts?

- **Suggestion:** No major changes needed here, though you could remove the question at the end if it's not necessary: "This concludes the translation of the provided text segments on the nature of love."

## Summary of Suggested Edits:

- Simplified phrasing to improve clarity.
- Replaced "the basis" with "the foundation" for a more natural tone.
- Made small adjustments to ensure smoother reading, especially in the "heavenly language" section.
- Clarified the meaning of "**13:00 / 1 o'clock**" for better comprehension.

On March 15, 2026, we will continue our three-part theme '**What is love?**' (Part 2)

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