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The Intersection of Theology and Anthropology on Descartes' love

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Although love does not account for a large proportion of Descartes' philosophy, his theory of love provides important insights into his thoughts of morality and mind-body union. The purpose of this paper is to examine his theory of love and its significance in his philosophical and theological thoughts.

Descartes' theory of love is characterized by the fact that, unlike Aristotle and the Scholastics, he does not distinguish love according to its objects, but considers the essence of love to be the union of the self with what it regards as good to form one whole, thus enabling both divine love and human love to be considered in a univocal way as essentially the same love. Descartes' love is not limited solely to charity, as Marion's claim of "dismissal of metaphysics", nor can it be reduced to anthropology, as Kambouchner suggests.

We maintain that, just as the mind and the body are distinct in substance and considered independently in terms of structure, but united in the living self, according to Descartes, love of mind and love of passion are distinct but coexist without contradiction in the self and appear as one continuous love, and as a result, the self loves with all its heart and soul, which is the essence of love inherent in the nature of the self.

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