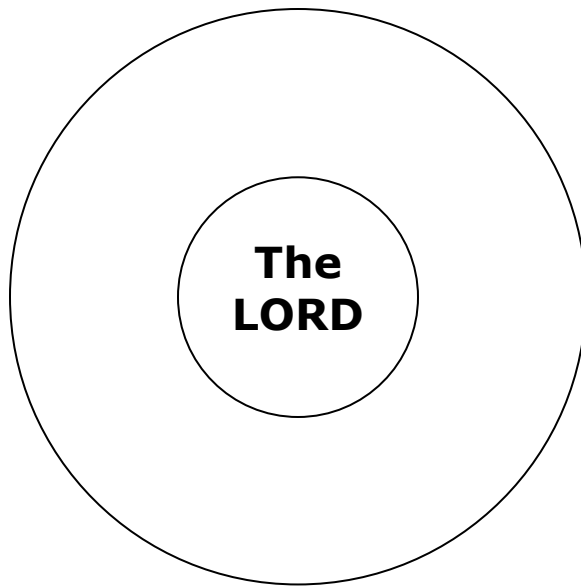


The Source of Our Love for the Neighbor

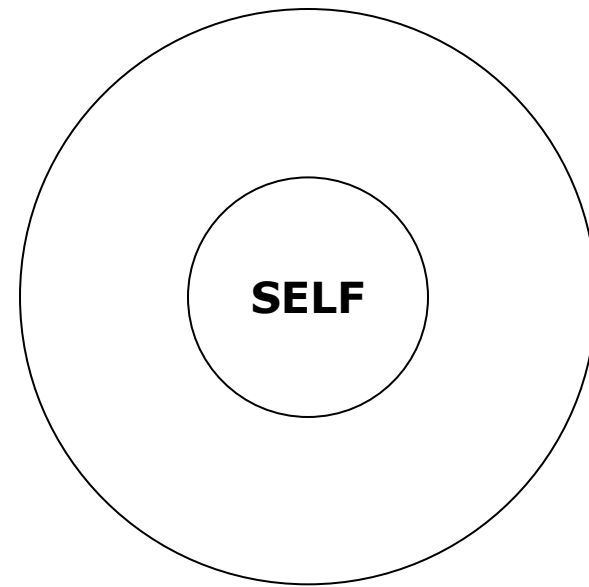
How does love for the neighbor that flows in from the Lord compare with love for the neighbor that flows from a love of self?

In the work *Heaven and Hell* we learn that the Lord is at the center of a spiritual love for our neighbor. This love spreads out from the Lord to all who seek to be conjoined to Him by love and faith.

However, people who are absorbed in a love for themselves put themselves at the center and claim that a love for the neighbor begins with themselves. They reach out only to those who they consider to be on their side and regard people outside of their inner circle as worthless. They consider people who oppose them and their evils as enemies no matter how wise, upright, honest or just they may be (paraphrasing *Heaven and Hell* 558).



Who receives spiritual love to the neighbor from the Lord? Write your answer in the circle around the Lord. Who is outside of the circle? Write your answer outside of the circle.



Who does a person who is absorbed in a love of self consider part of his circle of friends? Who is outside of the circle? Label the diagram with your answers.

Loving the Neighbor—From Love of Self or Love of the Lord

Directions:

1. Choose whether to put **The Lord** or **Self** as the source of love to the neighbor for this activity and write the source in the center of the circle.
2. If you choose **The Lord**, use the outer circle to write some characteristics or behaviors you might expect from someone who is motivated by love for the Lord.
3. If you choose **Self**, use the outer circle to write characteristics or behaviors you might expect from someone who is motivated purely by a love of self and whether or not other people serve his goals.
4. Hint: You can look at some of the quotes from the Word to help you **OR** just think about which characteristics make someone a good friend or not.

