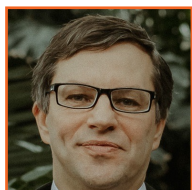


## Divine Bonds: The Theological Dimensions of Friendship in Johann Georg Hamann's thought



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This research paper will delve into the theological dimensions of friendship in the philosophical thought of Johann Georg Hamann, emphasizing how his relationships with contemporaries such as Immanuel Kant and J. G. Herder informed his understanding of faith, language, and divine revelation. Hamann, often regarded as a precursor to Romantic thought, viewed friendship as a sacred bond that transcends mere social interaction, serving as a conduit for spiritual and intellectual growth. This paper will argue that Hamann's friendships were not only instrumental in shaping his critiques of Enlightenment rationalism but also pivotal in articulating a theology that prioritizes relationality and community in the pursuit of truth. By examining key dialogues and exchanges, this study will reveal how Hamann's concept of friendship reflects his belief in the interconnectedness of human beings and their relationship with the divine. Furthermore, it will explore how his emphasis on language as a medium for expressing faith underscores the theological implications of personal relationships in understanding God's revelation. Ultimately, this research will contribute to a richer comprehension of how Hamann's theological insights on friendship promote a holistic vision of human existence grounded in divine love and relationality.

### Biography:

Dr. Theol., Docent of Church History at the Luther Academy. Doctoral dissertation: "Theology in the Ghetto: The Life, Work, and Theology of Nikolajs Plāte (1915–1983), Pastor and Theologian of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Latvian SSR" (2017), defended at the Faculty of Theology, Helsinki University. Research interests include the Reformation, Latvian church history and cultural history, and the Baltic German intellectual tradition, particularly focusing on J. G. Hamann. Publications cover various topics related to church history, J. G. Hamann, and H. Samsonius.