

228 *The Specialness of Erotic Love*

In this quote from L102 (P66¶60- P70¶61) *The Seven Cardinal Sins*, the Guide distinguishes between the special *erotic love* experienced between committed partners and *love in general human relationships*, even though love in general human relationships could be a very deep love emanating from an especially loving person.

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QUESTION:

*This question pertains to
the "one and only love."*

The mature person, it seems,

- *gives love very easily*
- and certainly*
- *would want something in return.*

If a person

- *is, let's say, seventy-five percent mature*
- and*
- *gets this wonderful feeling from
giving love,*
- then it seems that
the object
of the love
is not so important.*

How could such a mature person

who

- *needs and*
 - *wants*
- to give love,*

who

- *is able to give it [i.e., who is able to give love],*

reconcile this

*with what romantics say
about two people coming together,
and then, suddenly,*

*this is it [i.e., this love between them is then
suddenly the ONE AND ONLY LOVE for them both]!*

ANSWER:

There is a great deal of confusion here.

*In the first place,
there are many different kinds of love.*

*It is perfectly true
that a mature person
can love
many
• people
in
many
• different ways.*

*For clarity's sake,
let us use the words
• "warmth"
and
• "understanding."*

*These feelings [i.e., These feelings of "warmth" and "understanding"]
can even be felt for
people who
do not actively love this mature person
in return.*

*Yet, this very same mature person
will certainly
not harbor
• erotic love,
• the love between the sexes,
when it is
not
reciprocated.*

*A
• mature,
• rewarding
relationship [i.e., A mature, rewarding, erotic loving relationship
between the sexes]
is
mutual.*

*It [i.e., A mature, rewarding, erotic loving relationship between the sexes]
cannot be
one-sided.*

*It would be a
crass misunderstanding
to believe that
mature
• men
and
• women
can love
when they are hated.*

*The best that can be expected
is that they
will not hate in return
because they are not defensive.*

*They are
• uninvolved and
• objective,*

*and therefore
they sense
why
the other person hates.*

*However,
they [i.e., mature men and women]
will not
seek
a relationship
in such a case [i.e., a case where they are HATED in return],
not even
one of
casual friendship.*

Mature

- *men*
- and*
- *women*
- will have*
- *understanding*
- and*
- *warmth*
- in different degrees*
for different people.

They will relate to
many people
in different ways.

But in

- *marital,*
- *committed*

love,
mutuality
is a prerequisite for
a mature relationship.

This
does not mean that both
always
feel

- *the same way*

and with

- *the same intensity;*

marital love
cannot be measured
in such terms.

Relationships

- *change and*
- *fluctuate,*

but on the whole
there
must be
reciprocity.

*You bring
two different kinds of love
together here [i.e., here in your question] –*

- *general human relationship*

and

- *erotic love –*

and this is why you are confused.