



Mutual & Conjugal Love

FaithBuilder 4 | Lesson 20 | Conjugal Love

Lesson Overview

1. BrainBuilder

How many kinds of love can you name?

2. Read

Conjugal love is a special love between a married man and woman that comes from the marriage of good loves and true ideas in heaven. A different love, mutual love, is possible between good friends. pp. 1-2

3. Complete the Sentence, Activity

Compare conjugal love and mutual love. Discuss p.3

New Church Concept True Married Love

True marriage is a marriage of one man and one wife. This marriage is representative of the heavenly marriage, and as a consequence can contain heavenly happiness. See *Arcana Coelestia* 865:2

BrainBuilder

There are many different kinds of love. How kinds of love can you name or describe? The Writings define two fundamental kinds of good loves in relationships: marriage love (the love between a married man and woman) and mutual love (the love between friends of either the same sex or opposite sexes.)

Read

The Writings reveal that *conjugal* love, a married love, has the potential to bring tremendous happiness. (*Conjugal* love is not to be confused with *conjugal* love—which means to be *yoked together* in marriage.) Conjugal love is a special marriage love that has existed since ancient times but is so rare today that most people are not aware of it. The Writings say...

Conjugal love has its origin in the marriage of Divine good and truth and so in the Lord Himself. The union of good loves and true ideas in heaven is compared to a marriage, and is called a marriage. When good loves united to truth flows down it may be seen as a union of minds, and when it flows down still further, it may be seen as a marriage between two people. As a consequence the union of minds springing from good united to truth from the Lord is conjugal love itself. See *Arcana Coelestia* 2728

Conjugal love is possible between one husband and one wife because this marriage relationship is in the image of the heavenly marriage of good and truth.

Conjugal Love Is the Foundation of All Other Heavenly Loves

What a person loves most forms the foundation of his or her life. When conjugal love is at the heart of a person's life, it forms the basis for everything heavenly in that person.

Blessings of Conjugal Love

Since natural loves spring from spiritual loves, and spiritual loves from celestial ones...we say that conjugal love is the fundamental love of all celestial and spiritual loves, and so then of natural loves. *Conjugal Love* 67

Conjugal Love 180 describes the blessings that the Lord gives people through conjugal love:

The states produced by this love are innocence, peace, tranquility, inmost friendship, complete trust, a mutual desire of the mind and heart to do the other every good; also, as a result of all these, bliss, felicity, delight, pleasure, and, owing to an eternal enjoyment of states like this, the happiness of heaven....

This powerful love wants to share everything with the partner it loves, and to bring him or her joy. And the Divine love in the Lord wants to shower us with love infinitely more love—which is why He created men and women the way He did.

On the deepest levels He infused into people conjugal love to which He could impart all kinds of bliss, felicity, delight and pleasure, states which, together with life, proceed and flow in solely from the Lord's Divine love through His Divine wisdom. Consequently they flow into people who are in a state of truly conjugal love, because they alone are receptive of them.
Conjugal Love 180

A person who centers his or her life on the marriage of good loves and true ideas has the potential to receive the Lord's deepest blessings.

Mutual Love—Another Heavenly Love

Most married couples enjoy wider circles of friendship than their special friendship with a husband or wife. The Writings call the spiritually healthy love shared with friends outside of marriage *mutual* love. This heavenly love comes from the good of love to the Lord, and prompts us to selflessly do good deeds for others. The main difference between conjugal love and mutual love is that:

Mutual love wants to give all that is his or hers to another person, except his or her own life—which is what conjugal love wills to give. See *Spiritual Experiences 4436*

People experience joy and happiness when they do good deeds and useful services for others from mutual love—rather than for self-centered or worldly gain. Mutual love flows from conjugal love and brings joy and happiness (see *Arcana Coelestia 3956*, on right).

New Church Concept Conjugal Love

Conjugal love has its origin in the marriage of Divine good and truth and so in the Lord Himself. The union of good loves and true ideas in heaven is compared to a marriage, and is called a marriage. When good loves united to truth flows down it may be seen as a union of minds, and when it flows down still further, it may be seen as a marriage between two people. As a consequence the union of minds springing from good united to truth from the Lord is conjugal love itself. See *Arcana Coelestia 2728*

Mutual Love

Charity toward the neighbor has within it the desire that it should be as well with him as with ourselves; and with the angels, that it should be better with him than with themselves. Such also is the affection of charity; and therefore it is averse to all self-merit, and consequently to all the doing of good that looks to reward. To those who are in charity, the reward consists in being able to show kindness, and in being allowed to do so, and in the kindness being accepted. This is the delight, nay, bliss itself that is enjoyed by those who are in the affection of charity.... For the affection of charity, and mutual love, are the same thing. *Arcana Coelestia 3956*

Conjugal Love and Mutual Love

1. The Writings reveal that conjugal love existed with people during the early parts of human history, but that it is virtually unknown today. How would you explain the concept of conjugal love to someone who has never heard about it?
2. What distinguishes conjugal love from mutual love in relationships between people?

Complete the Sentence

Identify whether the following sentences describe *mutual* or *conjugal* love by adding the word *mutual* or *conjugal* at the beginning of each sentence.

1. _____ love can exist between members of the same sex.
2. _____ love can be shared between people who are not married to each other.
3. _____ love comes from the marriage of good ideas and true loves in the Lord.
4. _____ love wants to give everything to another person except his or her life.
5. _____ love is the source of all other loves.