

## 33.Love

No word is more romantic than love. To many people, love means everything. A person becomes happy when in love, and lonely and depressed if unloved. Love is usually regarded as a great thing, immune from criticism. But problems arise if it is identified with selfishness and jealousy. Too many people seek to "own" their lovers, like property, simply because they are centered on their own feelings of love; but this attitude can easily jeopardize the relationship. Ultimately, love is based on mutual understanding and affection, and we must accept our partners as they are, not as something to be possessed or changed.

Love between parents and children are usually regarded as endless and unconditional. Nevertheless, a distinction is sometimes made between maternal and paternal love. The attitude is sometimes expressed that a father may have limits to his love, but that a mother never can. Perhaps this is because the child was once, before birth, part of the mother's daily existence, but to the father has always been another, separate, being.

### **Comprehension**

1. What is the most romantic word?
2. What two negative emotions does love sometimes provoke?
3. Why may there be a difference between maternal and paternal love?

### **Your opinion**

1. Who was your first love?
2. Was it love at first sight?
3. When did you try to hold hands and kiss your sweetheart?'
4. Do you believe that the first love is bound to fail?
5. How often do you kiss and hug your sweetheart now?
6. How often do you kiss and hug your children?
7. Is there any difference between Father's love and Mother's love?
8. Do you think love out of wedlock deserves criticism? Why or why not?
9. Do you think platonic love can exist between a man and a woman? Do you have any personal experience?
10. Do you think you have to marry if you are in love?
11. Do you think you have to be in love to marry?