

cupid's arrow



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the science of **romantic love**

Age

Gender

Sexual orientation

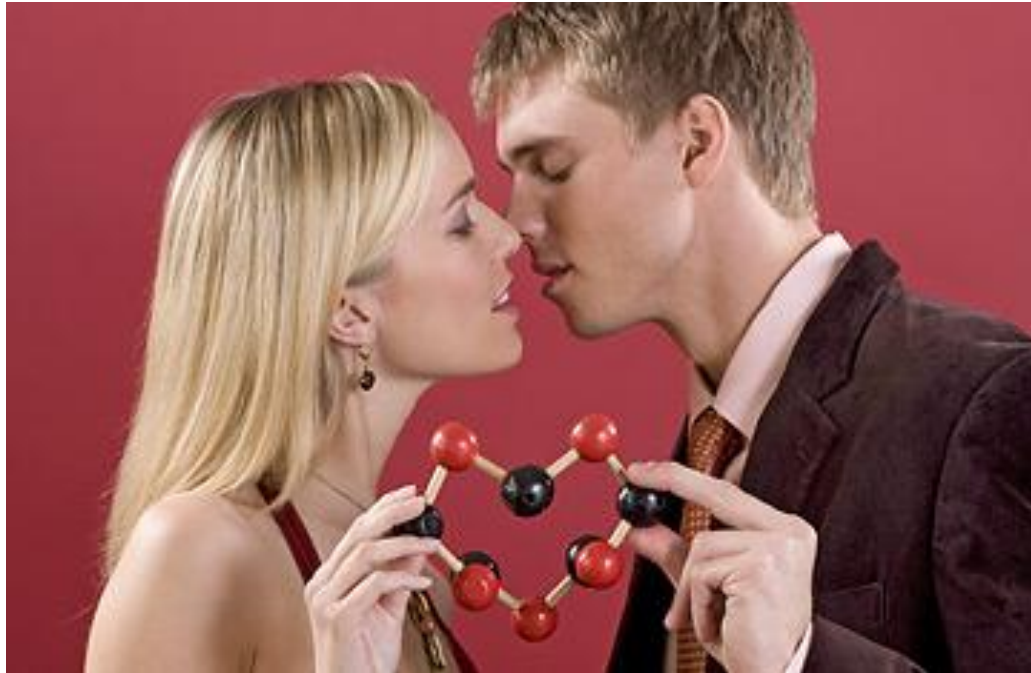
Religious affiliation

Ethnic Group

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the neurobiology of love

MRI evidence of dopamine – neural liquor



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the science of romantic love

Evidence of romantic love in 147 of 166 cultures

Remarkable similarity

No difference on 87% of 400 questions

Just as passionate < 25 or > 45

Hetero and gay similar responses on 86% ?'s

Men and women similar on 87% ?'s

Whites/others 82% ?'s

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love at **first sight?**

Characteristics and symmetry of features

Physically attractive

Scent

Tone of voice

Proximity

Mystery - Novel/Exciting Conditions

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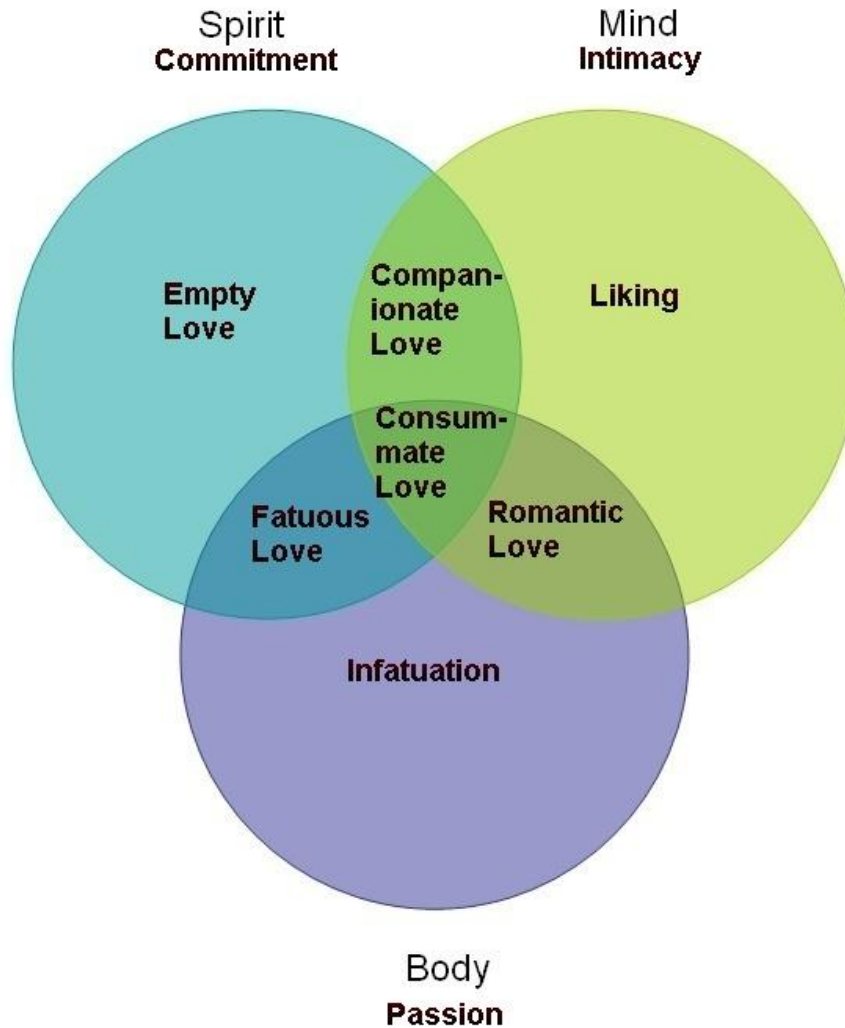
Sternberg conceptualized love as consisting of 3 primary components:

Passion - the drives that lead to romance, physical attraction, sexual consummation, and related phenomena`

Intimacy - feelings of closeness, connectedness, and bondedness in loving relationships

Commitment - the decision that one loves someone else and ... the commitment to maintain that love

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does romantic love last?



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special meaning

“My whole world had been transformed. It had a new center, and the center was Marilyn.”

“Juliet is the sun.”

“The realm of you.”

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Love Calculator Results

These are the results of the calculations by Dr. Love:

Barack Hussein Obama  Anne Leona Stewart

29%

William Bradley Pitt  Anne Leona Stewart

47%

Joseph Ferdinando Pellegrino  Anne Leona Stewart

1%

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Fisher, H. (2004). *Why we love: The nature and chemistry of romantic love*. NY, NY: Holt Publishing.

Sternberg, R. (2006). *The new psychology of love*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press.

Acevedo, B. & Aron, A. (2009). Does a long-term relationship kill romantic love? *Review of general psychology*, 13 1, 59-65.