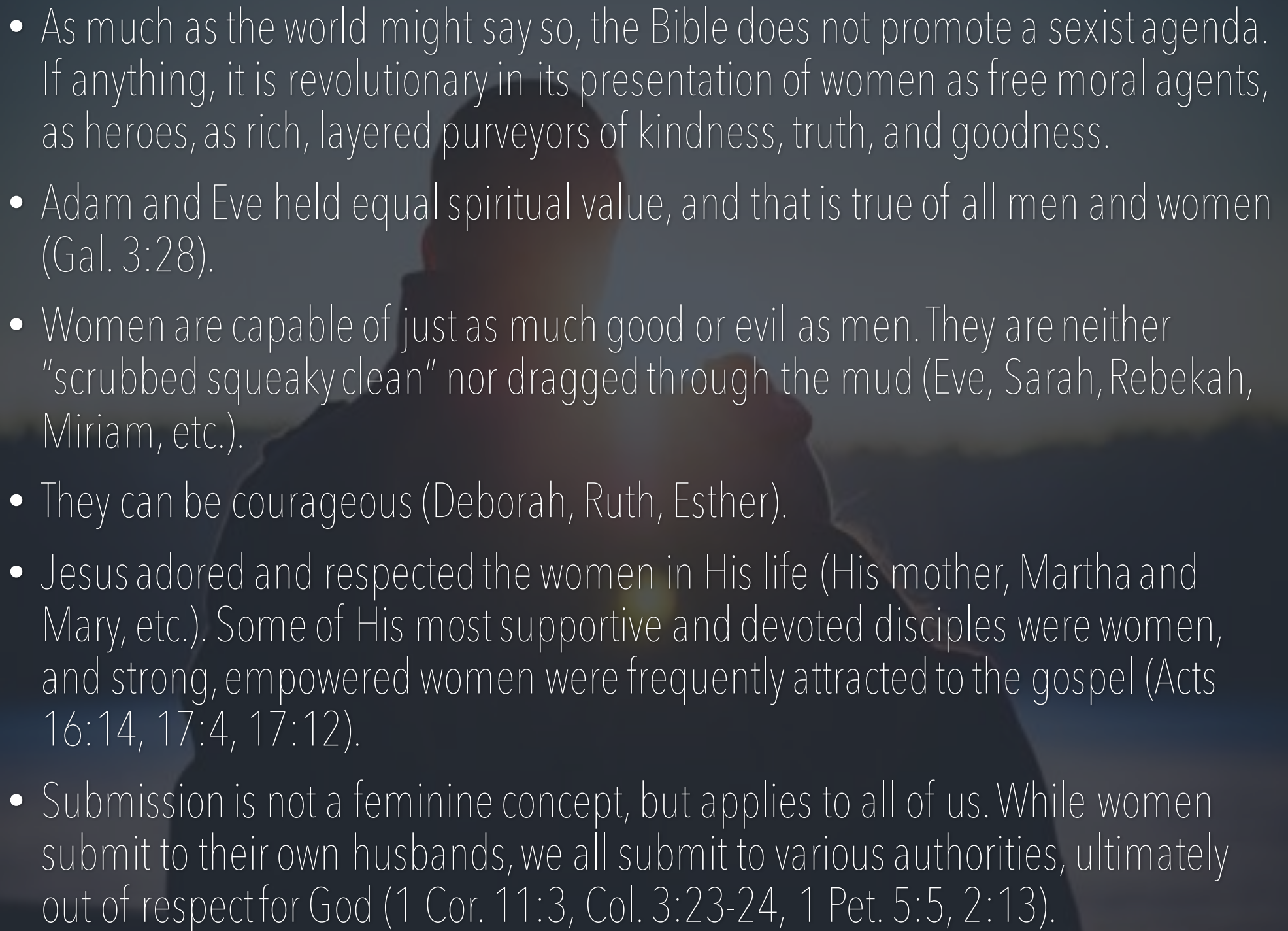


A romantic photograph of a man and a woman embracing from behind, silhouetted against a bright sunset over a body of water. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a strong lens flare and a warm, golden glow. The sky transitions from a pale blue at the top to a soft orange near the horizon. The water in the foreground is dark and calm, reflecting the light from the sky. The overall mood is peaceful and intimate.

AS CHRIST ALSO LOVED

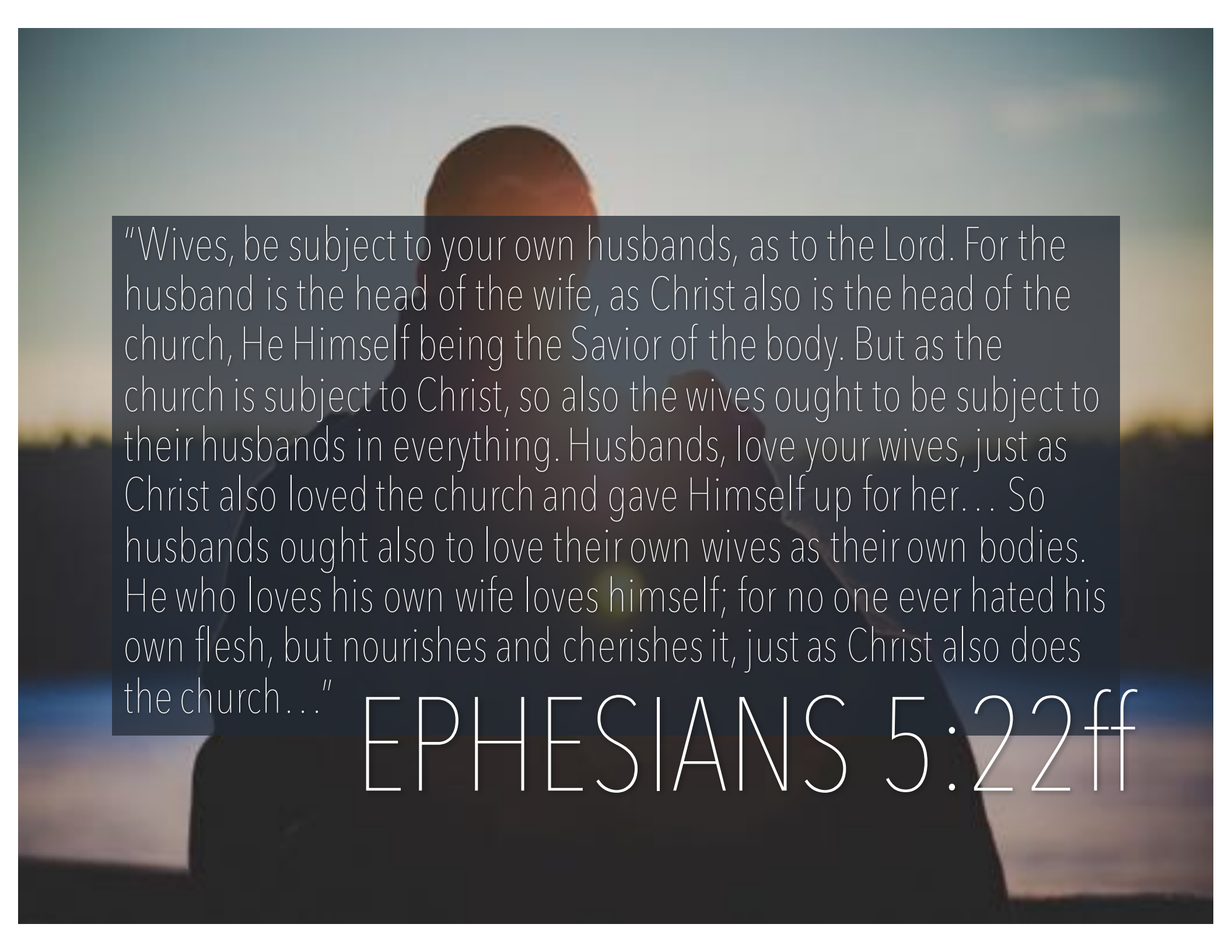
OUTDATED

- A common objection to the Bible is its presentation of roles within marriage and the value of women in general. The argument typically goes something like this: "Women in the Bible are usually treated like second-class citizens, at best, and mere property, at worst. Concepts like 'submission' and even marriage itself simply have no place in our society."
- Is this a fair accusation? Is the Bible nothing but a product of its time – a literary dinosaur with an obviously sexist agenda? Or is marital submission a key part of the broader narrative of God's redemptive plan, meant to convey the beauty and empowerment found in a spiritual marriage to Jesus Christ?

- 
- As much as the world might say so, the Bible does not promote a sexist agenda. If anything, it is revolutionary in its presentation of women as free moral agents, as heroes, as rich, layered purveyors of kindness, truth, and goodness.
 - Adam and Eve held equal spiritual value, and that is true of all men and women (Gal. 3:28).
 - Women are capable of just as much good or evil as men. They are neither "scrubbed squeaky clean" nor dragged through the mud (Eve, Sarah, Rebekah, Miriam, etc.).
 - They can be courageous (Deborah, Ruth, Esther).
 - Jesus adored and respected the women in His life (His mother, Martha and Mary, etc.). Some of His most supportive and devoted disciples were women, and strong, empowered women were frequently attracted to the gospel (Acts 16:14, 17:4, 17:12).
 - Submission is not a feminine concept, but applies to all of us. While women submit to their own husbands, we all submit to various authorities, ultimately out of respect for God (1 Cor. 11:3, Col. 3:23-24, 1 Pet. 5:5, 2:13).

A high-contrast, black and white photograph featuring the silhouettes of a man and a woman. They are sitting back-to-back on a dark, rectangular block. The man is on the left, facing left, and the woman is on the right, facing right. Their arms are crossed, and their heads are bowed, suggesting a state of defeat or resignation. The background is a light, uniform color, creating a stark contrast with the dark figures. A semi-transparent gray horizontal band across the middle of the image contains the text.

UNITY IS LOST IN A
BATTLE OF WILLS

A romantic scene of a couple embracing at sunset. The man is seen from the back, his arms around the woman. The background is a soft, warm glow from the setting sun over a body of water.

"Wives, be subject to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself being the Savior of the body. But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives ought to be subject to their husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her... So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself; for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also does the church..."

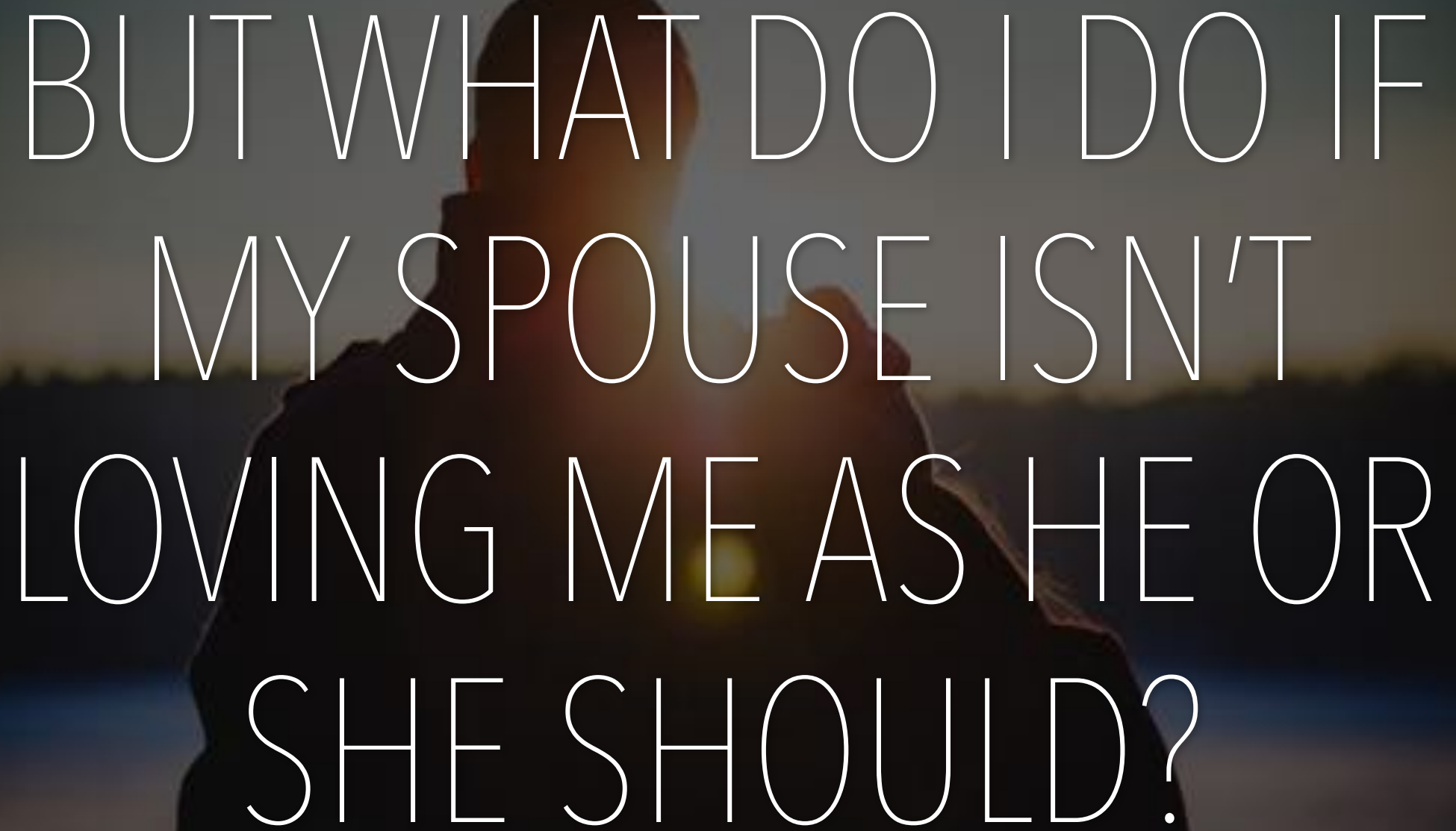
EPHESIANS 5:22ff

A person's silhouette is visible in the foreground, looking out over a body of water at sunset. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm, golden glow that reflects on the water. The sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and blue. The text is overlaid on the image in a white, sans-serif font.

SUBMISSION IS NOT
AN INDICATION THAT
YOU ARE EITHER
WRONG OR WEAK

HEAD OF THE HOUSEHOLD

- Unfortunately, we have a tendency to throw around some “head of the household” tiebreaker vote in any conflict. In everything from disciplining the kids to physical intimacy (1 Corinthians 7), we undermine our own authority as husbands by disregarding “oneness” in favor of selfishness. Instead of wives who cheerfully submit because we have earned their respect and trust, we have women who are trampled into submission.
- Biblically, submission is not a one-way street in marriage. We might submit in different ways, but we are all submitting to each other (and, ultimately, to the authority of Christ). If a husband is to love his wife AS Christ loved the church, then he would be willing to submit entirely to her needs, even to his own detriment. In turn, the wife submits, as the church does, out of respect for God’s authority.

A person's silhouette is visible in the foreground, looking out over a body of water. The background shows a sunset or sunrise with a warm, orange glow on the horizon. The text is overlaid in white, sans-serif capital letters.

BUT WHAT DO I DO IF
MY SPOUSE ISN'T
LOVING ME AS HE OR
SHE SHOULD?