

A romantic silhouette of a man and a woman embracing at sunset. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm, golden glow and lens flare effects. The background shows a calm body of water under a clear sky. The overall mood is peaceful and intimate.

AS CHRIST ALSO LOVED

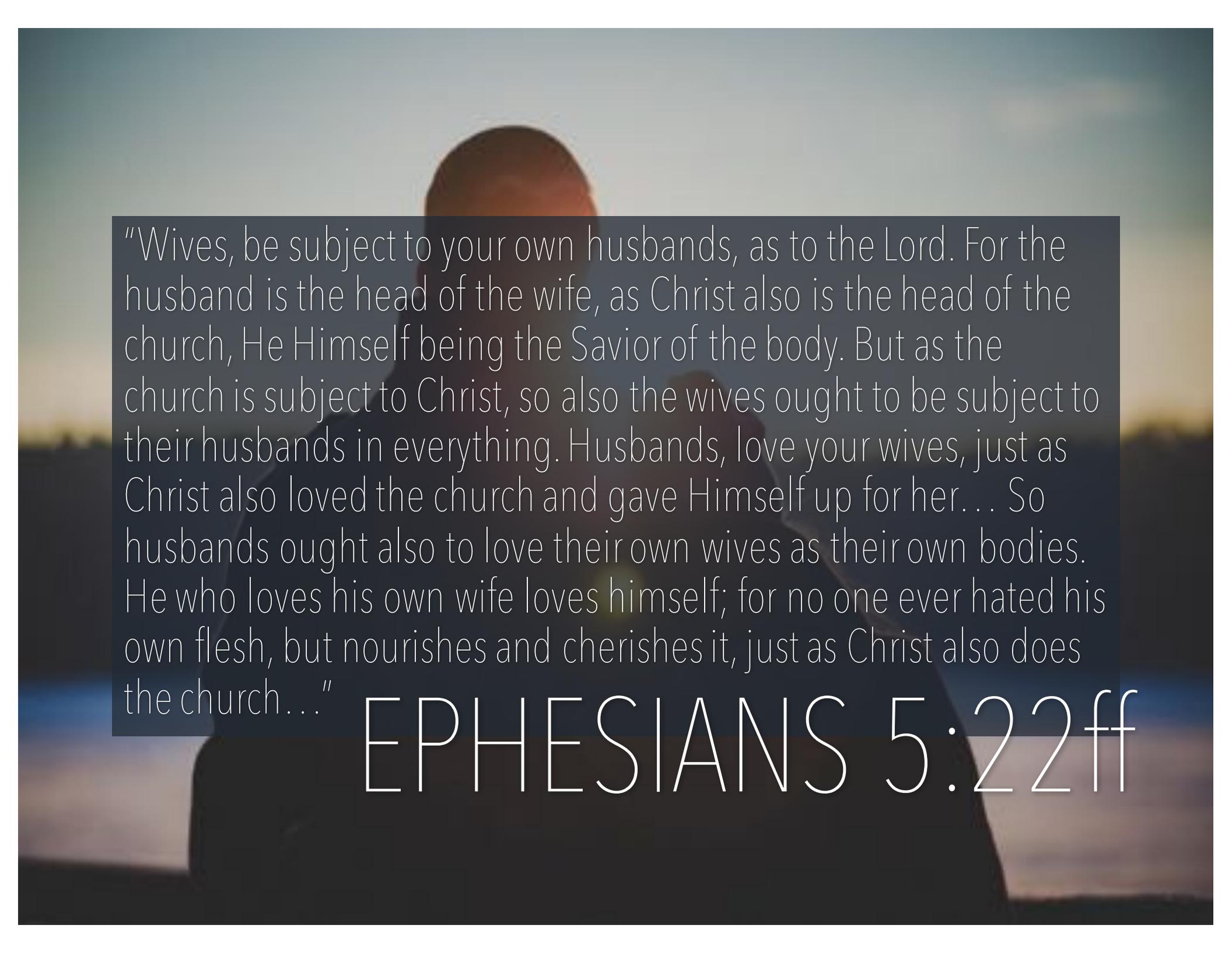
OUTDATED

- 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).

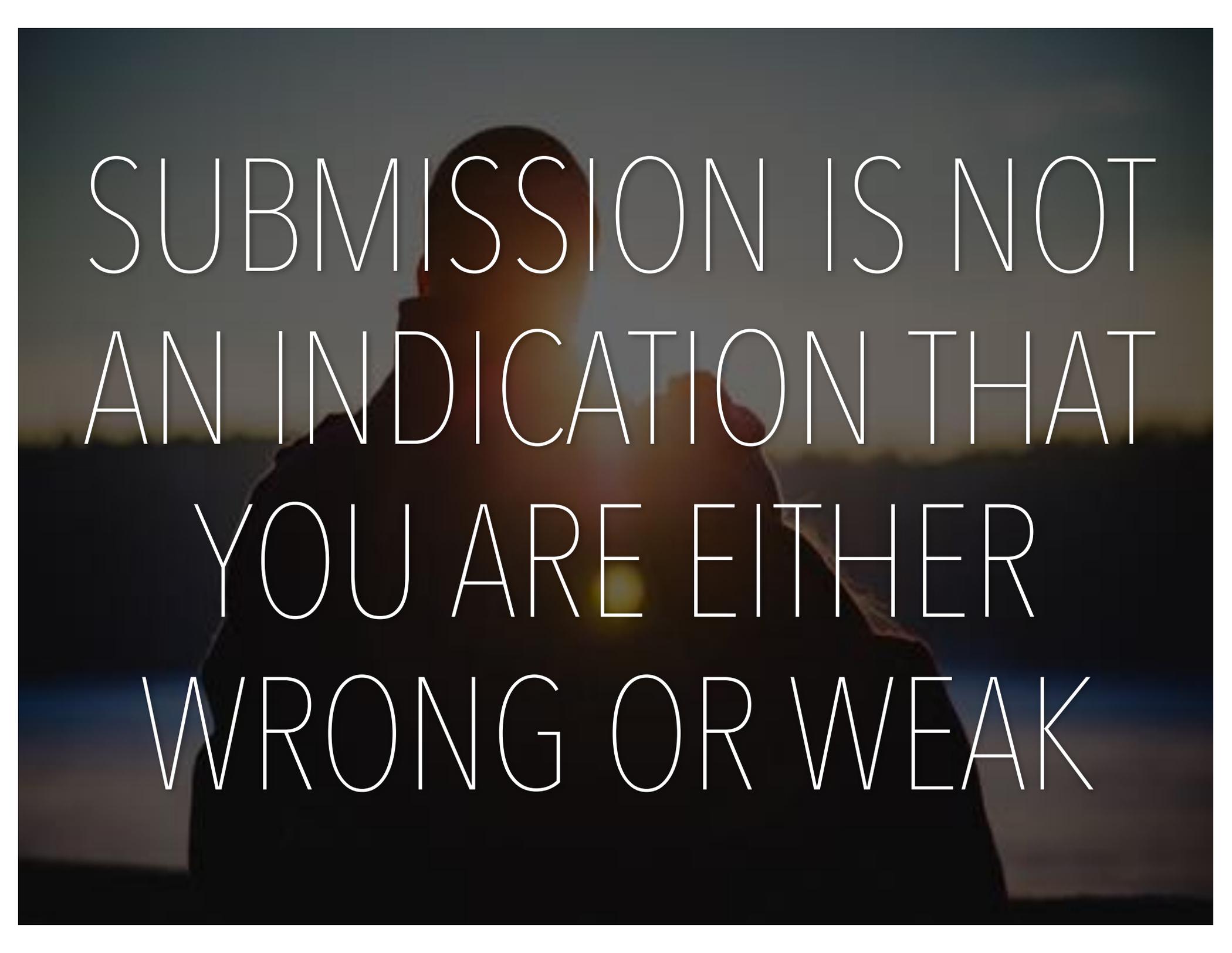
A black and white photograph showing the silhouettes of a man and a woman sitting back-to-back on a rectangular block. The man is on the left, facing left, and the woman is on the right, facing right. They are both sitting with their arms crossed. The background is a plain, light-colored wall. A semi-transparent grey horizontal band is overlaid across the middle of the image, containing the text "UNITY IS LOST IN A BATTLE OF WILLS" in white, uppercase, sans-serif font.

UNITY IS LOST IN A
BATTLE OF WILLS



"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..."

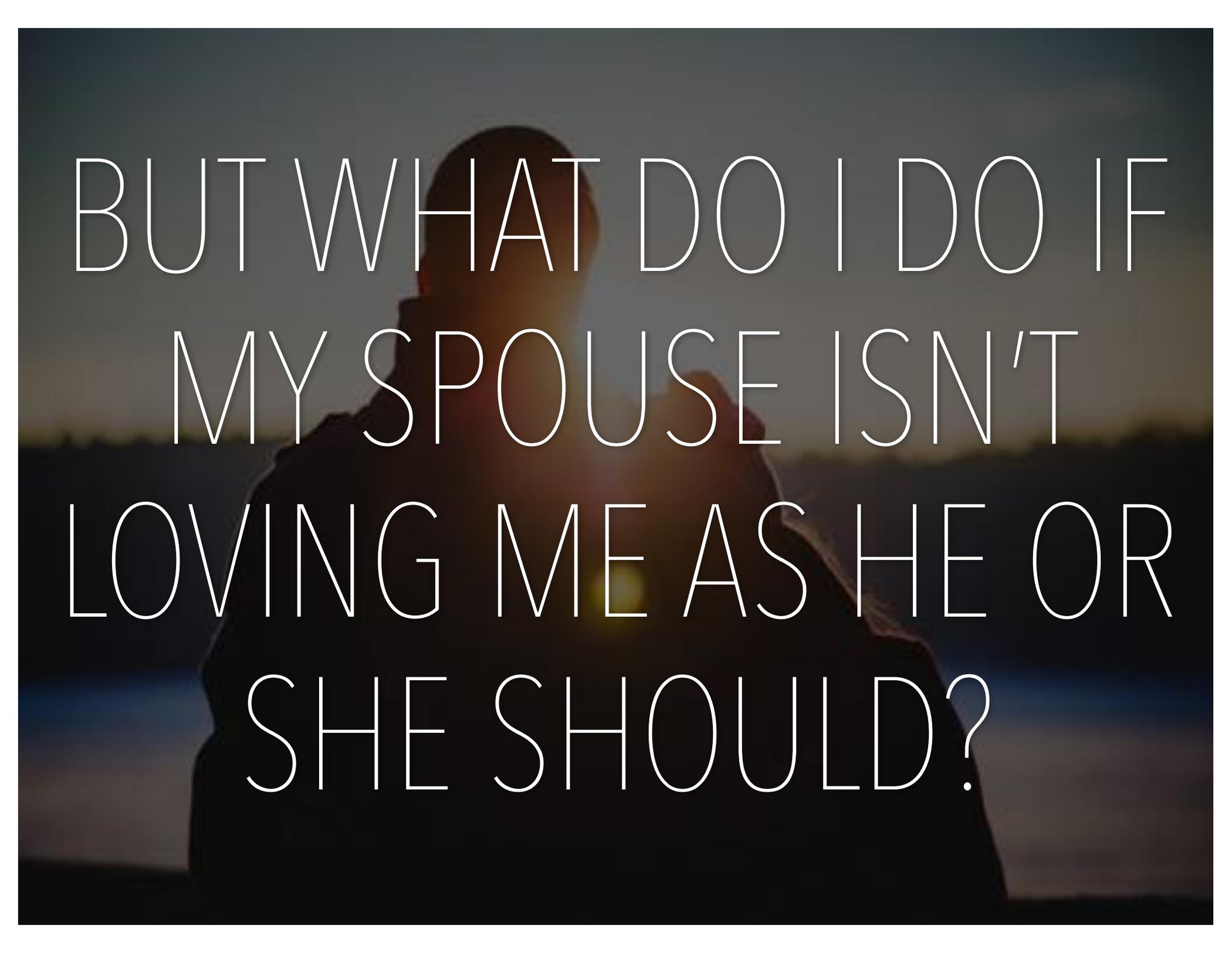
EPHESIANS 5:22ff

A person is shown in silhouette, looking out over a cityscape at dusk or dawn. The background is a soft, blurred mix of blue and orange light, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The person's head is tilted slightly, and their hand is visible near their face, possibly holding a camera or phone. The overall mood is contemplative and serene.

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 is shown in silhouette, holding a camera up to their eye as if taking a picture. The background is a soft, out-of-focus sunset or sunrise over a body of water, with warm light reflecting on the horizon. The overall mood is contemplative and artistic.

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