

MARRIAGE & SEXUALITY

The Biblical View

Alberto R. Timm

PROVERBS 2

2 My son, if you receive my words
and treasure up my command-
ments with you,
2 making your ear attentive to wisdom
and inclining your heart to under-
standing;
3 yes, if you cry out for insight
and raise your voice for understand-
ing,
4 if you seek it like silver
and search for it as for hidden treas-
ures;
5 then you will understand the LORD
and find the knowledge of the LORD.
6 For the LORD gives wisdom,
from his mouth come knowledge and
understanding;
7 he stores up sound wisdom for the up-
right;
8 he is a shield to those who walk in
integrity,
9 guarding the paths of justice
and preserving the way of his saints.
10 He will fill you with wisdom and
equity, and he will lead you to
understanding and knowledge.
11 When you call for insight,
it will be given to you;
when you ask for wisdom,
it will be made known to you.
12 Delivering you from the way of evil,
from men of perverted speech,
13 who forsake the paths of uprightness
to walk in the ways of darkness,
14 who rejoice in doing evil
and delight in the perverseness of
evil;
15 men whose paths are crooked,
and who are devious in their ways.
16 You will be saved from the loose
woman,
from the adventuress^e with her
smooth words,
17 who forsakes the companion of her
youth
and forgets the covenant of her God;
18 for her house sinks down to death,
and her paths to the shades;
19 none who go to her come back,
nor do they regain the paths of life.
20 So you will walk in the way of good men
and keep to the paths of the righteous.
21 For the upright will inhabit the land,
and men of integrity will remain in
it;
22 but the wicked will be cut off from the
land.

^d Heb strange. ^e Heb foreign woman. ^f Cn: Heb understanding. ^g Heb novel. ^h Or medicine.
3. 4: Rom. 12. 17. 3. 7: Rom. 12. 16. 3. 11, 12: Heb. 12. 5, 6.

The Reward of Seeking Wisdom

3 My son, do not forget my teaching,
but let your heart keep my com-
mandments;
2 for length of days and years of life
and abundant welfare will they give
you.
3 Let not loyalty and faithfulness forsake
you;
bind them about your neck,
write them on the tablet of your heart.
4 So you will find favor and peace,
and your path will be smooth.
5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart,
and do not rely on your own insight.
6 In all your ways acknowledge him,
and he will make straight your paths.
7 Be not wise in your own eyes;
fear the LORD, and turn away from
evil.
8 It will be healing to your flesh
and peace to your bones,
because you will fear the LORD.
9 Hear, O son, the LORD's voice,
and do not despise his word;
10 then you will be filled with wisdom,
and your heart will be glad.
11 My son, do not despise the LORD's dis-
cipline
or be weary of his reproof,
12 for the LORD reproves him whom he
loves,
as a father the son in whom he de-
lights.
13 Happy is the man who finds wisdom,
and the man who gets understand-
ing,
14 for the gain from it is better than gain
from silver
and its profit better than gold.
15 She is more precious than jewels,
and nothing you desire can compare
with her.
16 Long life is in her right hand;
in her left hand are riches and honor.
17 Her ways are ways of pleasantness,
and all her paths are peace.
18 She is a tree of life to those who lay hold
of her;
those who hold her fast are called
happy.
19 The LORD by wisdom founded the
earth;

A Paternal Exhortation

by understanding he established the
heavens;
20 by his knowledge the deeps broke forth,
and the clouds drop down the dew.
21 My son, keep sound wisdom and dis-
cretion;
let them not escape from your sight,
22 and they will be life for your soul
and adornment for your neck.
23 Then you will walk on your way se-
curely
and your foot will not stumble.
24 Do not be afraid of what will be afraid
of, for the LORD is with you.
25 Do not be afraid of sudden panic,
or of the ruin^h of the wicked, when it
comes;
26 for the LORD will be your confidence
and will keep your foot from being
caught.
27 Do not withhold good from those to
whom it is due,
when it is in your power to do so.
28 Do not say to your neighbor, "I will
give it," when you have not it,
lest you be rebuked and
shamed.
29 Do not say to your neighbor,
"I will give it," when you have not it,
lest you be rebuked and
shamed.
30 Do not contend with a man for no rea-
son,
when he has done you no harm.
31 Do not envy a man of violence
and do not choose any of his ways;
32 for the perverse man is an abomination
to the LORD,
but the upright are in his confidence.
33 The LORD's curse is on the house of the
wicked,
but he blesses the abode of the right-
eous.
34 Toward the scornful he is scornful,
but to the humble he shows favor.
35 The wise will inherit honor,
but fools getⁱ disgrace.
4 Hear, O sons, a father's instruction,
and be attentive, that you may
gain^j insight;
2 for I give you good precepts:
do not forsake my teaching.
3 When I was a son with my father,
tender, the only one in the sight of my
mother,
4 he taught me, and said to me,
"Let your heart hold fast my words;
keep my commandments, and live;

¹ Heb Do not withhold good from its owners. ² Cn: Heb exalt. ³ Heb know. ⁴ Reversing the order of the lines.
⁵ The meaning of the Hebrew is uncertain. ⁶ The meaning of the Hebrew word is uncertain.
3. 34 (Gk); Jas. 4. 6; 1 Pet. 5. 5. 4. 26 (Gk); Heb. 12. 13.

PROVERBS 4

5 do not forget, and do not turn away from
the words of my mouth.
6 Get wisdom; get insight.
7 Do not forsake her, and she will keep
you;
love her, and she will guard you.
8 The beginning of wisdom is this: Get
wisdom,
and whatever you get, get insight.
9 Prize her highly,^e and she will exalt you;
she will honor you if you embrace her.
10 She will place on your head a fair gar-
land;
she will bestow on you a beautiful
crown.
11 Hear, my son, and accept my words,
that the years of your life may be
many.
12 I have taught you the way of wisdom;
I have led you in the paths of up-
rightness.
13 When you walk, your step will not be
hampered;
if you run, you will not stumble.
14 If you hold fast to my commandments,
you will prosper, and you will let go;
if you reject my words, you will be
rejected, and you will be rejected.
15 Do not turn back to the way of the
wicked,
lest you be rejected and rejected.
16 For they have not seen the LORD,
they have done wrong;
they are robbed of sleep unless they
have made some one stumble.
17 For they eat the bread of wickedness
and drink the wine of violence.
18 But the path of the righteous is like the
light of dawn,
which shines brighter and brighter
until full day.
19 The way of the wicked is like deep dark-
ness;
they do not know over what they
stumble.
20 My son, be attentive to my words;
incline your ear to my sayings.
21 Let them not escape from your sight;
keep them within your heart.
22 For they are life to him who finds them,
and healing to all his flesh.
23 Keep your heart with all vigilance;
for from it flow the springs of life.
24 Put away from you crooked speech,
and put devious talk far from you.
25 Let your eyes look directly forward,
and your gaze be straight before you.
26 Take heed to^g the path of your feet,
then all your ways will be sure.

**“Church History is the history
of the exposition of
Scripture.”**



– Gerhard Ebeling, *The Word of God and Tradition*, trans. S. H. Hooke
(Philadelphia: Fortress, 1968), title of chapter 1

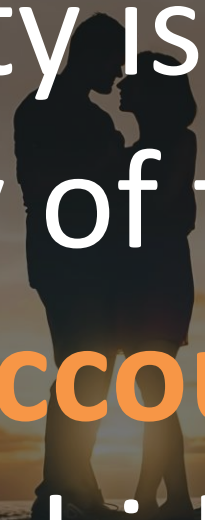
Historicity of the Creation account

OT

Psalms 33:6–9; 94:9; 95:4–5; 121:2;
136:5–9; 146:5–6; 148:1–5
Isaiah 40:26

NT

Matthew 19:4
Acts 17:24–26
Colossians 1:15–16
Hebrews 4:4, 10
Revelation 14:7

A silhouette of a man and a woman embracing, standing on a dark, flat landscape under a dramatic sunset sky with scattered clouds. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm glow.

The Adventist view of marriage
and sexuality is based on the
historicity of the **Genesis**
account
and the abiding nature
of its teachings.

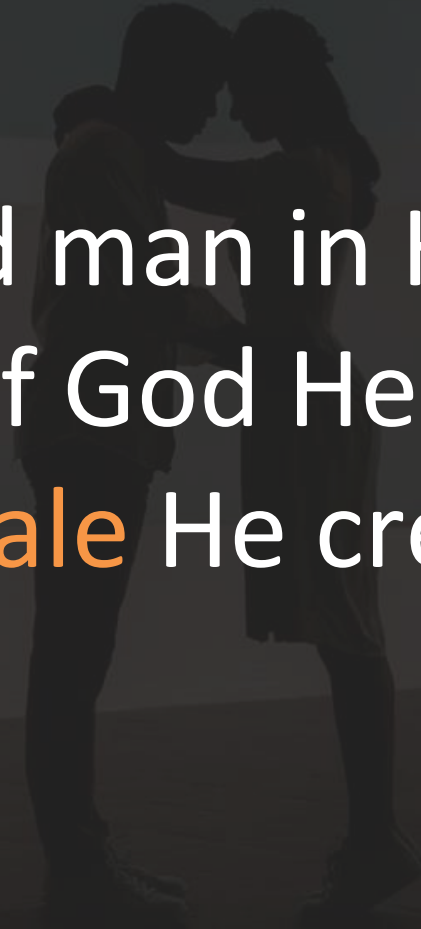
A couple is shown in silhouette, embracing in a modern architectural space. The space features large white columns and a curved wall, with a paved floor. The background is a clear blue sky. The text "BINARY GENDER" is overlaid in large white letters, and "a divine creation" is written below it in smaller white letters.

BINARY GENDER

a divine creation

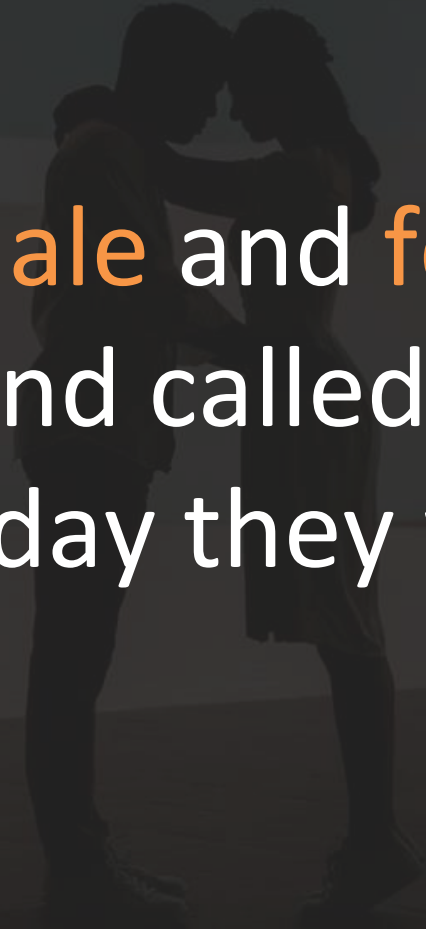
Genesis 1:27

“So God created man in His own image;
in the image of God He created him;
male and **female** He created them.”



Genesis 5:2

“He created them **male** and **female**, and blessed them and called them Mankind in the day they were created.”



Matthew 19:4

“And He answered and said to them,
‘Have you not read that He who made them at
the beginning made them
male and female . . .?’”

A woman with long, wavy blonde hair is shown from the chest up, wearing a blue blazer over a patterned top. She is looking down and to the right. The background is a solid dark grey. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

HETEROSEXUAL MARRIAGE

a divine institution

Genesis 2:24

“Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.”

Matthew 19:5

“And He answered and said to them,
‘Have you not read that He who made
them at the beginning made them
male and **female** . . .?’”

Ephesians 5:31

“For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.”



MARRIAGE SEXUALITY

a divine gift

Genesis 1:28

“Then God blessed them, and God said to them, ‘Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth . . .’”

Proverbs 5:18-19

“Let your fountain be blessed, and rejoice with **the wife of your youth**. As a loving deer and a graceful doe, let her breasts satisfy you at all times; and always be enraptured with her love.”

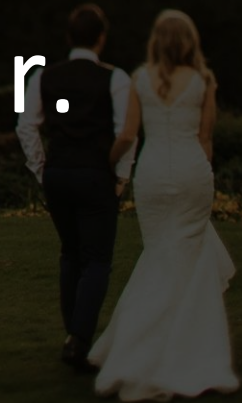
1 Corinthians 7:2-5

“Let each **man** have his own wife, and let each **woman** have her own husband. . . . The **wife** does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does. And likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does. Do not deprive one another.”

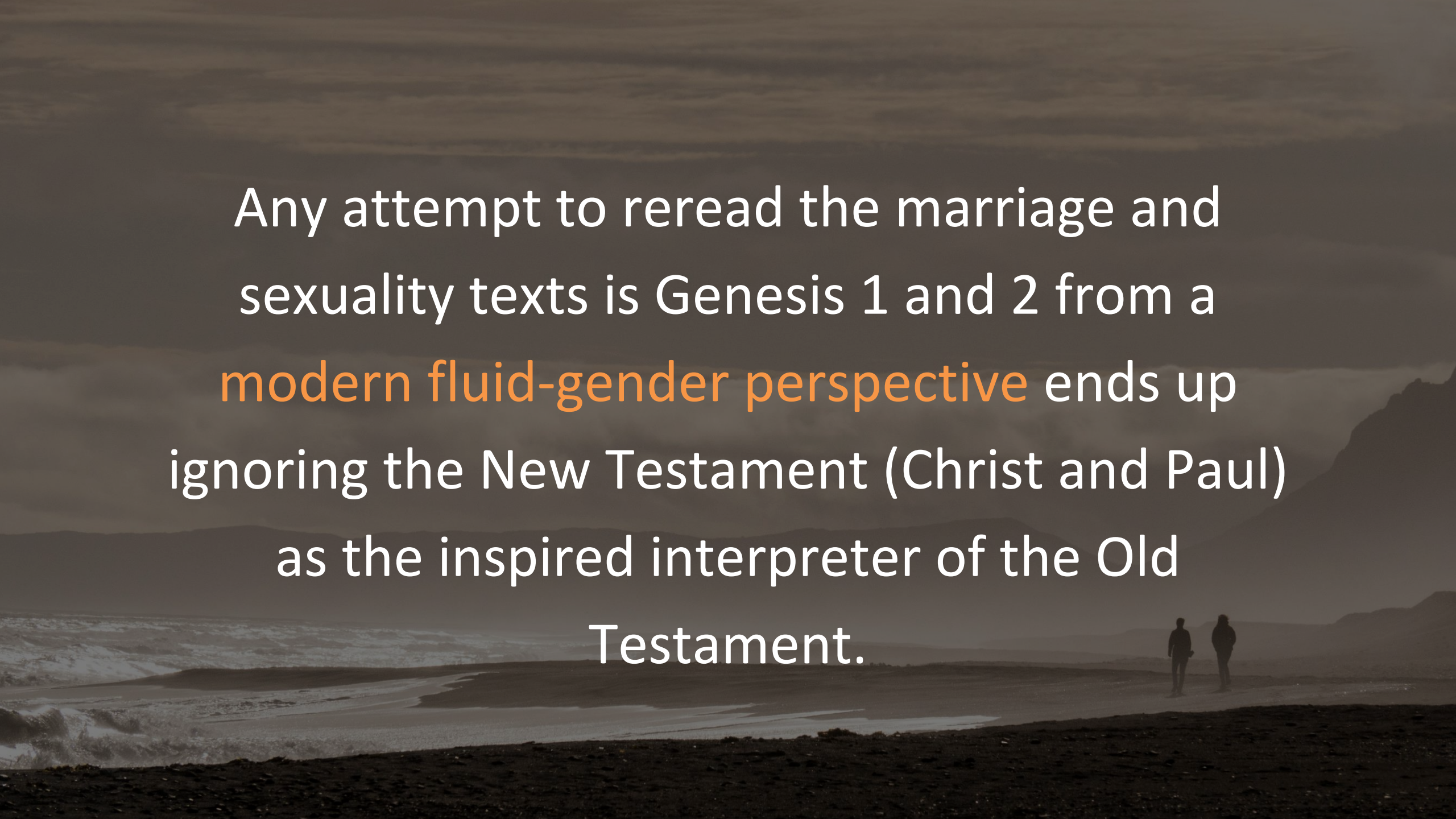
A couple is seen from behind, standing on a paved pier and holding hands. They are looking out at the ocean under a grey, overcast sky. The woman on the left has long blonde hair and is wearing a black long-sleeved top and dark trousers. The man on the right is wearing a grey long-sleeved shirt and blue jeans. They are both barefoot. A metal railing with stone pillars is in front of them. The text "CONCLUDING REMARKS" is overlaid in the center in a large, white, bold, sans-serif font.

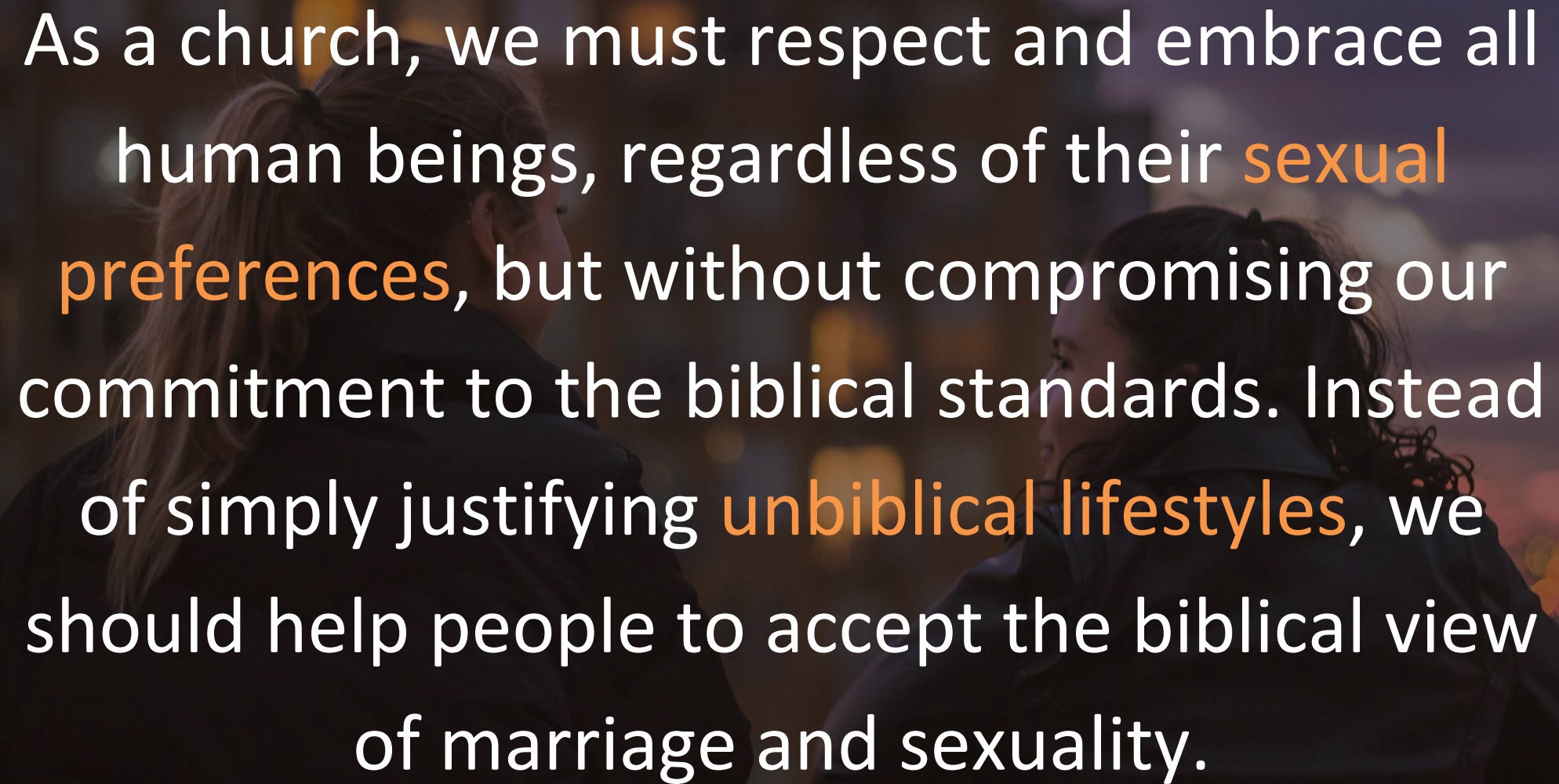
CONCLUDING REMARKS

The biblical view of marriage and sexuality is a **transcultural** concept that can be fully grasped only by allowing the Bible to be its own interpreter.



Any attempt to reread the marriage and sexuality texts is Genesis 1 and 2 from a modern fluid-gender perspective ends up ignoring the New Testament (Christ and Paul) as the inspired interpreter of the Old Testament.



A photograph of two women from behind, looking out over a city at night. The city lights are blurred in the background, creating a bokeh effect. The women are in the foreground, their silhouettes are dark against the lighter background. The text is overlaid on the image in white, with some words in orange.

As a church, we must respect and embrace all human beings, regardless of their **sexual preferences**, but without compromising our commitment to the biblical standards. Instead of simply justifying **unbiblical lifestyles**, we should help people to accept the biblical view of marriage and sexuality.

Malachi 4:5-6

“Behold, I will send you **Elijah** the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord. And he will turn the hearts of the **fathers** to the children, and the hearts of the **children** to their fathers, lest I come and strike the earth with a curse.”

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