



FOREIGNERS & EXILES

LIVING IN MUTUAL
SUBMISSION

1 PETER 3:1-7

Wives, in the same way submit yourselves to your own husbands so that, if any of them do not believe the word, **they may be won over without words** by the behavior of their wives, when they see the purity and reverence of your lives.

-1 Peter 3:1-2

Peter is speaking to women who had converted from Judaism and paganism to Christianity but their husbands had not. He's telling them, in this situation, where you are powerless and expected by the culture to convert to your husbands faith, live in a way that shows the gospel of Jesus.

Reflect Jesus in your marriage.

The principle that Peter is encouraging is:

Live in a way that attracts others to the gospel regardless of your situation.

The hebrew word for helper is *Ezer*. The only other time Ezer is used is when it is referring to God himself.

We can offer our help, which is our power, in attempt to control our husbands, or we can offer our power to empower them. Its the difference between *independence* and *interdependence*.

Humility and peace, worn by a woman or a man, is beautiful.

By obeying God and submitting to our husband, we are submitting to God. He is our protector. He is our rescuer.

When Peter says to husbands, "*In the same way...*", he is carrying over his theme which began back in chapter 2:

Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.

For it is God's will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish people. Live as free people, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as God's slaves. Show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers, fear God, honor the emperor. -1 Peter 2:12,15-17

We have never seen a “submission problem” that did not have a controlling husband at its root. When the wife begins to set clear boundaries, the lack of Christlikeness in a controlling husband becomes evident because the wife is no longer enabling his immature behavior. She is confronting the truth and setting biblical limits on hurtful behavior. Often, when the wife sets boundaries, the husband begins to grow up. - Henry Cloud & John Townsend, *Boundaries*

Respect your wives - because they are **co-heirs**.

What husbands were being asked to do by Peter is to lay down their rights and privileges for their wives. To lift up and empower the powerless, while forgoing their own power.

To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, **that you should follow in his steps.**

“He committed no sin,
and no deceit was found in his mouth.”

When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly. “He himself bore our sins” in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; “by his wounds you have been healed.”

- 1 Peter 2: 21-23 NIV (emphasis added)