

In the same way

“in the same way, wives, be submissive to your husbands so that”

1 Peter 3:1

In the same way—The opening word here is *homoios*. It means to be in perfect likeness. This is a very important word in the NT. It is used to describe the perfect likeness in substance between Jesus and the Father. **(Philippians 2:6-11)** This word is the basis of the doctrine that Jesus is God.

Such an important word gets lost in this translation. But it is critical if we are going to understand what Peter is really saying. This particular verse has caused a lot of controversy, especially among women who are not believers. It looks so harsh. It looks like bondage. But things change when we see what the first word of this phrase means.

Peter is saying that there is to be a perfect likeness between the actions of wives and the previous discussion of Jesus' reaction to suffering. This is a conjunctive word. You can't understand what follows unless you see what comes before. So, go read **1 Peter 2:19-25**. In that passage, Peter tells every Christian (male and female) that one of the *purposes* of life in Christ is to model His suffering when bad things happen to you. Our reaction to understand suffering should be to submit to God's control over our lives. Why? Because God cares for us, loves us and has His purposes for us. Nothing happens in life without God's say-so. So, instead of kicking against life's twist and turns, praise God that He loved you so much He was willing to let you reflect the glory of His Son.

Suddenly, this verse is not about bondage or servile constraint. It is about being like Jesus. And there is more but that will have to wait for tomorrow.

I am not a wife, but I know about this kind of life. I know what it means to have bad things happen to you, big time. Until I understood that God loves me so much He wants me to really experience what it was like for Jesus, I kicked and complained and fought against all those things. My life was angry. I focused on “unfair.” Then God showed me that my life needed to be intimately connected with Jesus and Jesus was a man “acquainted with grief.” How could I be like Him if all I did was fight against the real-life instruction? I got on my knees and said, “Father. Thank you for my trials. Now I know You love me more than I love me. I would have tried to avoid all this, but You knew I needed it in order to become like Your Son. Help me to endure just the way that He did. I want to be like Him.”

It doesn't matter if you are a wife, a husband or unattached. Your life has to start with “in the same way.” That's what it means to be crucified with Him. There is no Christ without a cross.