

## Likewise Husbands

### 1 Peter 3:7 (NKJV)

7 Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered.

Wuest says that the Likewise refers back to:

1 Peter 2:17 (NKJV)

17 Honor all people. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king.

Which is the foundation for all this submission section, to government, slaves, wives.

#### I. Dwell with them with understanding

##### A. Dwell with.

1. Do you remember that before you got married, one of the reasons you got married was so that you could be together?
2. Once a couple gets married they often think the desire to be together is automatically met.
3. How much time do you spend really together.
4. Do you share concerns, thoughts, ideas, plans, etc.

##### B. With understanding.

1. The word is often translated to know.
2. How well do husbands understand their wives?
3. List 5 five needs that your wife has and how you meet them.
4. Do you know how your wife thinks, her concerns, her worries?
5. **That a husband should be considerate implies more than just a kind attitude; it goes deeper, implying that his consideration of his wife is based on his knowledge of her needs, desires, gifts, and abilities. A husband who acts on his knowledge of his wife will greatly enrich her life, as well as his own.** *Bruce B. Barton, 1 Peter, 2 Peter, Jude, Life Application Bible Commentary (Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Pub., 1995), 85–86.*

#### II. Giving honor to the wife

##### A. As one might do for something of great value.

1. In the NIV this word is translated respect but in means so much more than that.

- a. NIV Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers.
2. This word is used in 2 Peter 1:17 (NKJV) 17 For He received from God the Father honor and glory when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory: “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”
    - a. As the Father honors the Son so husbands are to honor their wives.
    - b. Husbands should keep a special place of honor in their hearts for their wives. They should treat them with special deference, courtesy, respect, and kindness. *Kenneth S. Wuest, Wuest’s Word Studies from the Greek New Testament: For the English Reader, vol. 11 (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1997), 83.*
  3. It is also translated precious in 1 Peter 2:7 (NKJV)
    - a. 7 Therefore, to you who believe, He is precious; but to those who are disobedient, “The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone,”
    - b. In the same way that Christ is precious to every believer so the wife is to be precious to the husband.
  4. Not all people value the same things.
    - a. One person may value their car as is seen in the way he treats it, while another person may not.
    - b. Some may value their lawn as is seen in how it appears while others do not.
    - c. I remember when one person who had a lawn with many bare spots was asked about it said that we decided to raise kids rather than grass.
  5. Do you value her opinion, her feelings, her aspirations?
  6. The treatment the wife receives from her husband speaks of her value in his eyes.
    - a. Is she a treasure to him and someone that he values even above himself.
    - b. Of is she just there for the times and the things that he needs?
  7. **In this case such honour ought to include kind and affirming words both privately and in public, and high priority in choices regarding the use of one’s time and money.** *Wayne A. Grudem, 1 Peter: An Introduction and*

*Commentary, vol. 17, Tyndale New Testament Commentaries (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1988), 151.*

III. As to the weaker vessel

A. The idea is mostly of physical strength or social position.

1. In ancient times women and children had no rights and were often not given any consideration at all.
2. Peter uses it not to denigrate women but to foster “respect” (τιμή), the core of his advice to Christian husbands. *J. Ramsey Michaels, 1 Peter, vol. 49, Word Biblical Commentary (Dallas: Word, Incorporated, 1988), 169.*

B. **But the context also shows that women are ‘weaker’ in terms of authority in the marriage (vv. 1, 5–6), and Peter therefore directs husbands that instead of misusing their authority for selfish ends they should use it to ‘bestow honour’ on their wives.** *Wayne A. Grudem, 1 Peter: An Introduction and Commentary, vol. 17, Tyndale New Testament Commentaries (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1988), 152.*

C. In that day women were more vulnerable than today.

1. It normally was quite easy for a husband to abuse his wife physically or sexually, or, because of his social power, including the power to divorce, intimidate her emotionally. All of this Peter rules out: especially because of her vulnerability he is to be sure to honor her in word and deed; rather than exploiting his power or denying that he has it, he lends it to her. *Peter H. Davids, The First Epistle of Peter, The New International Commentary on the New Testament (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1990), 123.*

D. **While the woman may be “weaker,” she is also a “partner,” implying a side-by-side relationship of working together. A man who respects his wife will protect, honor, and help her. He will stay with her. He will respect her opinions, listen to her advice, be considerate of her needs, and relate to her both privately and publicly with love, courtesy, insight, and tact.** *Bruce B. Barton, 1 Peter, 2 Peter, Jude, Life Application Bible Commentary (Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Pub., 1995), 86.*

IV. As being heirs together of the grace of life

A. The idea is first that they are heirs together.

1. They are both equal servants of the Lord.
2. Each one in their own speciality.

B. Secondly, in God’s eyes they are equal.

1. Christ died for the wife just like He died for the husband.
  2. They are of equal value in the kingdom of God.
  3. The soul of a man is equal to that of a woman.
- C. Both men and women who are believers are heirs of the gracious gift of life—eternal life. *Bruce B. Barton, 1 Peter, 2 Peter, Jude, Life Application Bible Commentary (Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Pub., 1995), 86.*
- V. That your prayers may not be hindered
- A. Prayers are an important part of life just as they were in Peter’s day.
1. We live in a world that is filled with disappointments and tragedies.
  2. Where must we go in those times.
  3. There is not other than to go to the Lord for help.
  4. And the last thing we need at times like that is for our prayers to be hindered.
- B. Hindered:
1. The word “hindered” in the Greek text means literally “to cut in, to interrupt.” Failure to give due honor to the wife will result in a cutting in on the efficacy of their united prayer times. *Kenneth S. Wuest, Wuest’s Word Studies from the Greek New Testament: For the English Reader, vol. 11 (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1997), 83.*
  2. Are you annoyed by people that constantly interrupt you?
  3. But can you both really pray when there is something that is keeping you from your mate?

A man said, “I don’t understand my wife. She has everything she could want—a dishwasher, a new dryer, a nice house. I’ve been faithful and I don’t drink. But she’s miserable. I can’t figure out why.” His love-starved wife would have traded everything for a single expression of genuine tenderness from her unromantic husband. Appliances do not build self-esteem; being somebody’s sweetheart most certainly does. *James Dobson Bruce B. Barton, 1 Peter, 2 Peter, Jude, Life Application Bible Commentary (Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Pub., 1995), 87.*