

1 Peter 3:1-2

Wives with Unbelieving Husbands

By Matthew Janzen

Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the behavior of the wives; While they behold your chaste behavior coupled with fear. [1 Peter 3:1-2, KJV]

Subject: G5293 / hupotasso / *hoop-ot-as'-so*

From G5259 and G5021; to *subordinate*; reflexively to *obey*:—be under obedience (obedient), put under, subdue unto, (be, make) subject (to, unto), be (put) in subjection (to, under), submit self unto.

Lessons from 1 Peter 3:1-2

- ❖ The wife is to be in subjection to her husband no matter if she agrees with his practices or not; just as servants submit to good and harsh masters (1 Pet. 2:18), and just as Messiah being reviled, did not revile back (1 Pet. 2:23).
- ❖ This does not mean that the wife will not have common or Biblical disagreements with her husband. However, the verse does state that the wife is obeying the word and the husband is not, and she is winning the husband to obedience by her behavior, not by her words in arguing (un-submissively) with him about the Bible.
- ❖ The conclusion then must be that the wife follows the pattern of verses 3-6 in winning her husband to obedience to the Scriptures, but at the same time submitting to him as her head in taking care of his physical needs, children, and not arguing with him about the Bible.
- ❖ I see nothing in the text hindering the wife from answering a question her husband might have concerning her lifestyle, and this question leading to a calm discussion, but she is to not get into an argument or debate which may cause her husband to feel that she is trying to be the authority in the marriage.
- ❖ In the case of two parties who believe the Bible is true (where the husband is not an atheist or something akin) the above still applies. However, the wife may be in error as well on doctrine, and always needs to listen to her husband's understandings and explanations when it comes to Bible verses. He has the right to make attempts to convince her of what he feels is the truth. (The husband should also listen to the wife's understandings.)
- ❖ If she does not agree with his conclusions, all the outlined steps still apply. She is to win him without a word, by her chaste, modest, submissive behavior/lifestyle. She is also to obey him even when she disagrees with his conclusions provided that her obedience to her husband does not violate a command of Yahweh.
- ❖ We must always remember that a wife is to obey Elohim rather than man (Acts 5:29) when the two contradict each other. For example, if an unbelieving husband requests his wife to stay home instead of attending Sabbath meeting, she is to disobey her husband (Lev. 23:3; Heb. 10:25). However, if he requests her to miss Wednesday night prayer meeting, she should stay home for she is not commanded/required by Yahweh to attend Wednesday night prayer meeting.