

Lesson Twelve – First Quarter 2026 (Sunday)

Theme: *Deliberate Harmony in the Christian Home and Church*

Memory Text: Colossians 4:6 (KJV)

“Let your speech be alway with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.”

I. Introduction: Harmony Requires Intention

1. Harmony is not automatic.

- You cannot simply put compatible people together and expect unity.
- Harmony requires **effort, discipline, patience, and biblical intentionality.**

2. You’ve seen this in counseling:

- Families
- Marriages
- Churches
- Ministries and teams
Disharmony rarely comes from *bad people*, but from people who were not *deliberate* about being harmonious.

3. Paul teaches the same principle:

- Harmony must be **deliberate**.
- Harmony must be **biblical**.
→ Therefore, *we must be deliberate about being biblical*.

4. Colossians 4:6 sets the tone:

- Speech seasoned with grace
 - Intentional kindness
 - Thoughtfulness toward others
These are **practices**, not accidents.
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II. Colossians 3:18 — The Controversial, Beautiful, Misunderstood Text

“Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord.”

This text is often misunderstood because people don't read the **second half**.

III. Understanding “Submit” (Greek: ὑποτάσσω – *hupotassō*)

1. **Meaning:**

- “To place under,”
- To align oneself beneath,
- **A voluntary act**, not force or coercion.

2. **WHAT IT DOES NOT MEAN:**

- The husband owns the wife.

- The wife is inferior.
- The husband can command obedience.
- The wife is obligated to submit regardless of the husband's character.

3. WHAT IT DOES MEAN:

- The wife freely chooses to follow a man who is **worthy of following**.
- This is an act of love, loyalty, and trust — not oppression.
- Submission is relational, not hierarchical domination.

4. Even God does not force submission.

- He honors human freedom.
- Therefore, how could any husband demand what God Himself does not?
→ Submission must come from **choice**, not command.

IV. The Balancing Command: Colossians 3:19

“Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them.”

1. The husband's calling is **love**, not rule.
2. The command forbids bitterness, harshness, domination, emotional withdrawal.
3. Paul elevates the husband's role to one of **Christlike sacrifice**.

V. The Master Blueprint: Ephesians 5

Paul explains the relationship fully:

1. **Husbands love your wives, even as Christ loved the church and gave Himself for it.**
 - Jesus died for the church.
 - He served, washed, protected, nourished, and uplifted her.
 2. **“Washing of water by the word”**
 - Christ leads through Scripture, truth, patience, and cleansing grace.
 - This is spiritual leadership, not authoritarian control.
 3. A man who loves his wife the way Christ loves the church is a man a woman can **willingly choose** to follow.
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VI. The Deep Point: Chosen Submission Requires a Worthy Leader

1. A wife is not commanded to follow a selfish or ungodly man.
2. When men refuse to be spiritual priests in their home:
 - They have forfeited their role of leadership.
 - They cannot be angry if their wives stand in the gap.
 - Leadership belongs to the one who actually leads — spiritually, emotionally, and sacrificially.
3. **Biblical leadership is service.**
 - Not dominance
 - Not entitlement

- Not control
It's Christlike love poured out daily.
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VII. Application: Harmonious Living Requires Biblical Intentionality

1. **Harmony is the fruit of intentional obedience.**
 2. **Harmony is the result of Christ-centered character in both spouses.**
 3. **Harmony is maintained by grace-filled speech and grace-filled actions.**
 4. In the church, in marriage, and in families, harmony comes when individuals:
 - Practice humility
 - Lead with love
 - Choose submission (when appropriate)
 - Refuse bitterness
 - Speak with grace
 - Live under Christ's lordship
 5. God's model for marriage is not about power — it is about purpose, partnership, and mutual Christlikeness.
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VIII. Closing Thought

Harmony is not the absence of conflict — it is the presence of **Christlike character** in the midst of differences. And when both husband and wife (and every church member) choose to be

deliberate about being biblical,
unity becomes possible, healthy, and holy.