

## A Marriage Minute

A simple help to make your marriage just a little better this week.

### “The Letter or the Spirit?”



*“He has made us competent as ministers of a new covenant--not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.”*

- 2 Cor. 3:6

John and Mary decided to reconcile after they were both in adulterous relationships. They knew what the Bible said about marriage and they wanted to do the right thing. The problem was that instead of working toward redemption, they started putting so many conditions on each other that they spent all their time and energy playing the role of “Sheriff” waiting to catch each other in a “parole violation.” Of course they were both hurt, and were simply trying to protect themselves from further hurt, but the result was that they could never enjoy the redemptive grace of God because they were too busy accusing each other of their “parole violations.” The reconciliation did not succeed.

For reconciliation to be successful we have to put away our Sheriff badge and be continually forgiving *even while we’re being hurt!* I know that sounds impossible; it is! That’s why it takes the love of God which alone “covers a multitude of sins.” We can’t go by the letter of the law; it will always kill. It’s the Spirit of grace that gives life, liberty and restoration. It will either be redemption or probation. It can’t be both.

**Question For The Both of Us:** Do you feel like I have you on probation in any way, or do you feel redemptive grace in our relationship?

**Prayer For The Both of Us:** Lord help us to put away our Sheriff badges, and to love unconditionally trusting that you alone can judge rightly – and you will!

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*This Couples Devotional is brought to you by Marriage & Family Savers Ministries. Visit them at [www.marriageandfamily.org](http://www.marriageandfamily.org)*

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