

“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. It is the love of God that “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.

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!

This Couples Devotional is brought to you by Marriage & Family Savers Ministries. Visit them at www.marriageandfamily.org

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