

Based on this passage, describe ways that seeking to live out the relationship between Christ and the Church could influence a marriage relationship.

Read Ephesians 5:31-32. Why do you think marriage is described as a mystery?

Read Psalm 89:1-8 and Psalm 117. What do those psalms indicate about God's faithfulness?

How does that affect your understanding of marriage?

Based on what you've learned about God-focused marriage in the last week, how would you counsel...

- A friend considering marriage
- A neighbor having a tough season in marriage
- A co-worker who has recently been divorced

## Sermon Notes

### Don't Lower the Bar

*Matthew 5:31-32*

Nolan Donald



**WordServe. Shaped by God's Word;  
serving God's world.**

## Community Group Prep Work

*For the week of September 20, 2009*

Please complete the following questions before your Community Group meeting.

### Getting Started

When you were in high school, what was your best subject?

What subject did you like best? Why?

How do you respond in the following situations:

- Being bored at a party...
- Halftime of a sports event where your team is way behind...
- Fall afternoon and your boss is out of the office for the rest of the day...

What was the last movie you saw in the theatre? Why did you choose that one?

If you could be any famous person (living or dead), who would you be? Why?

Is divorce something that has affected your life? How?

If Nolan had to give an abbreviated version of Sunday's message, what two ideas, comments, or points would you tell him to include no matter what? Explain.

Read Matthew 19:1-12. Write down things you notice about marriage and divorce.

What was Moses' reasoning for permitting divorce (v.8)? Based on the new life that Christ offers (and his teaching in the Sermon on the Mount), what should be our goal?

Marriage is a reflection of the relationship between Christ and the Church. Read Ephesians 5:21-33. Write down things you learn about the relationship between Christ and the Church.