



Rock Point Church
Daniel Goulding | 10.01.2023

BIG IDEA | How we define God *DEFINES US*.

We must pursue an accurate view of God and not lose sight of His true nature. Our relationship with God, a result of our view of Him, is what makes us who we are.

Acts 14:8-20 (NLT)

⁸ While they were at Lystra, Paul and Barnabas came upon a man with crippled feet. He had been that way from birth, so he had never walked. He was sitting ⁹ and listening as Paul preached. Looking straight at him, Paul realized he had faith to be healed. ¹⁰ So Paul called to him in a loud voice, "Stand up!" And the man jumped to his feet and started walking.

¹¹ When the crowd saw what Paul had done, they shouted in their local dialect, "These men are gods in human form!" ¹² They decided that Barnabas was the Greek god Zeus and that Paul was Hermes, since he was the chief speaker. ¹³ Now the temple of Zeus was located just outside the town. So the priest of the temple and the crowd brought bulls and wreaths of flowers to the town gates, and they prepared to offer sacrifices to the apostles.

¹⁴ But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard what was happening, they tore their clothing in dismay and ran out among

the people, shouting, ¹⁵ “Friends, why are you doing this? We are merely human beings—just like you! We have come to bring you the Good News that you should turn from these worthless things and turn to the living God, who made heaven and earth, the sea, and everything in them. ¹⁶ In the past he permitted all the nations to go their own ways, ¹⁷ but he never left them without evidence of himself and his goodness. For instance, he sends you rain and good crops and gives you food and joyful hearts.” ¹⁸ But even with these words, Paul and Barnabas could scarcely restrain the people from sacrificing to them.

¹⁹ Then some Jews arrived from Antioch and Iconium and won the crowds to their side. They stoned Paul and dragged him out of town, thinking he was dead. ²⁰ But as the believers gathered around him, he got up and went back into the town. The next day he left with Barnabas for Derbe.

***EVERYONE* has an image of God.**

It is easy to have the *WRONG* image of God.

Leviticus 19:4 (NLT)

⁴ “Do not put your trust in idols or make metal images of gods for yourselves. I am the Lord your God.”

Isaiah 66:1-2a (NLT)

¹ “Heaven is my throne,
and the earth is my footstool.

Could you build me a temple as good as that?

Could you build me such a resting place?

² My hands have made both heaven and earth;
they and everything in them are mine.
I, the Lord, have spoken!”

We develop images of God based on:

- **How we were raised**
- **Things we have heard**
- **How we want God to be**

Romans 1:21 (NLT)

²¹ Yes, they knew God, but they wouldn’t worship him as God or even give him thanks. And they began to think up foolish ideas of what God was like. As a result, their minds became dark and confused.

Only Jesus is the *EXACT IMAGE* of God.

Colossians 1:15 (NLT)

¹⁵ Christ is the visible image of the invisible God.
He existed before anything was created and is supreme over all creation,

Colossians 1:19 (NLT)

¹⁹ For God in all his fullness
was pleased to live in Christ,

Hebrews 1:1-3 (NLT)

¹ Long ago God spoke many times and in many ways to our ancestors through the prophets. ² And now in these final days, he

has spoken to us through his Son. God promised everything to the Son as an inheritance, and through the Son he created the universe.³ The Son radiates God's own glory and expresses the very character of God, and he sustains everything by the mighty power of his command. When he had cleansed us from our sins, he sat down in the place of honor at the right hand of the majestic God in heaven.

2 Corinthians 4:4 (NLT)

⁴ Satan, who is the god of this world, has blinded the minds of those who don't believe. They are unable to see the glorious light of the Good News. They don't understand this message about the glory of Christ, who is the exact likeness of God.

Matthew 12:30 (NLT)

³⁰ "Anyone who isn't with me opposes me, and anyone who isn't working with me is actually working against me."

Only Scripture reveals the *EXACT NATURE* of Jesus.

John 1:1-5 (NLT)

¹ In the beginning the Word already existed.

The Word was with God,
and the Word was God.

² He existed in the beginning with God.

³ God created everything through him,
and nothing was created except through him.

⁴ The Word gave life to everything that was created,
and his life brought light to everyone.

⁵ The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness can never extinguish it.

Hebrews 4:12 (NLT)

¹² For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires.

GROUPS DISCUSSION

1. What stood out to you about this week's sermon?
2. Have you ever expected someone to be a certain way and then found out they were not how you expected? How did they differ from your expectations?
3. Why is it easy for us to be prejudiced or have biases without realizing it?
4. How do our biases influence how we interact with people who are different from us?
5. Pastor Daniel said, "We can't walk in the Spirit unless we are willing to walk where the Spirit leads." Where might the Spirit be leading you? Is there something God has asked you to stop or start doing that you haven't yet done?

6. Read Romans 10:14. What prevents us from telling others about Jesus? Who in your life can you share the hope of Jesus with?