

Sunday, January 14, 2018

Dr. Ricky Cummings

Series: **Worship – “Discovering the Greatness of our God”**

Sermon: **The Definition of True Worship!**

FBC Vidalia

Morning Service

**John 4:20-24**

**Deuteronomy 32:3 (ESV)** For I will proclaim the name of the LORD; ascribe greatness to our God!

Worship is our response to God for who He is and what He has done, expressed in the things we say and the way we live.

True worship is the connection of my personal relationship to God with my passionate response to His greatness, resulting in a lifestyle of pure righteousness.

**John 4:20-24 (ESV)** <sup>20</sup> Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you say that in Jerusalem is the place where people ought to worship.” <sup>21</sup> Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. <sup>22</sup> You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. <sup>23</sup> But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. <sup>24</sup> God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.”

### 1. What worship is not!

**Matthew 15:7-9 (ESV)** <sup>7</sup> You hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy of you, when he said: <sup>8</sup> “This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me; <sup>9</sup> in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.”

- **It is not a place.**

**John 4:21 (ESV)** Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father.

**Amos 4:4 (NIV)** “Go to Bethel and sin; go to Gilgal and sin yet more. . . .”

- **It is not a procedure.**

**Matthew 6:1 (ESV)** “Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven.

**Amos 5:21-23 (ESV)** <sup>21</sup> “I hate, I despise your feasts, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies. <sup>22</sup> Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them; and the peace offerings of your fattened animals, I will not look upon them. <sup>23</sup> Take away from me the noise of your songs; to the melody of your harps I will not listen.

- **It is not a person.**

**Acts 10:25-26 (ESV)** <sup>25</sup> When Peter entered, Cornelius met him and fell down at his feet and worshiped him. <sup>26</sup> But Peter lifted him up, saying, “Stand up; I too am a man.”

- **It is not a thing.**

**Exodus 20:4 (ESV)** “You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.

**Psalm 97:7 (ESV)** All worshipers of images are put to shame, who make their boast in worthless idols; worship him, all you gods!

## 2. What is true worship?

- **True worship requires a spiritual relationship.**

**John 3:3 (ESV)** Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

- **True worship involves an emotional response. (But not void of truth)**

**Matthew 22:37 (ESV)** And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.

**There is nobody in this room that can give God your passion but you!**

- **True worship involves a mental recognition.**

**John 4:23 (ESV)** But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him.

- **True worship results in pure righteousness.**

**John 4:23 (ESV)** But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him.