

Religious Affections

Jonathan Edwards

Introduction to Jonathan Edwards

Context for Writing “A Treatise Concerning Religious Affections”

His goal: “...we ought not to reject and condemn all affections as though true religion did not at all consist in affections; so, on the other hand, we ought not to approve of all, as though every one that was religiously affected had true grace, and was therein the subject of the saving influences of the Spirit of God.”

Text: “Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory” 1 Peter 1:8.

Thesis: “True religion, in great part, consists in Holy Affections.”

Meaning: “The affections are no other than the more vigorous and sensible exercises of the inclination and will of the soul.”

Uncertain Signs that Religious Affections are the Work of God in a True Believer:

I. Religious Fervor or Zeal

Positively: Psalm 68:3; Psalm 119:136

Negatively: Romans 10:1,2

II. Great Physical Effects On The Body

Positively Isaiah 6; Revelation 1:17

Negatively:

III. Fluent, Fervent, and Abundant Religious Talk

Positively Psalm 89:1

Negatively Matthew 6:5-6; James 1:19

IV. That Affections Seem To Be From An External Supernatural Source

Positively:

Negatively: John 3:5-8; Jeremiah 17:9

V. That Religious Affections Come with Texts of Scripture in the Mind

Positively: John 15:7

Negatively- Matt 4:1-11

VI. The Presence of Love

Positively: John 13:34

Negatively: Matthew 5:47

VII. The Presence of Many Kinds of Religious Affections Accompanying Each Other

Positively:

Negatively: Exodus 10:16, 17

VIII. That Joy and Comfort Follow Conviction and Mourning for Sin

Positively: Isaiah 6

Negatively: 2 Corinthians 7:9-10

IX. Great Time and Energy Spent in Religious Activity and Worship

Positively: Acts 2:42, 46

Negatively: Matthew 6:5

X. Abundant Praise to God

Positively:

Negatively:

XI. Great Assurance of One's Own Salvation

Positively: John 16:33; I John 2:3

Negatively:

XII. That One's Religious Affections and Testimonies Move the Hearts of Saints

Positively:

Negatively: 1 Samuel 16:7; 1 John 2:19