Jonathan Edwards’ Religious Affections
Part I

Jonathan Edwards Center Brasil 2014
Where is Jonathan Edwards on all of this?

So Edwards begins to reflect in public on the revivals...defending them as works of God against Old Lights, but critiquing the excesses of the New Lights as well.

Some Thoughts Concerning the Revival of Religion (1743)

and finally...

A Treatise Concerning Religious Affections (1746)
Faithful Narrative of a Surprising Work of God (1737)

Distinguishing Marks of a work of the spirit of God (1741)

Some Thoughts Concerning the Revival of Religion (1743)

and finally...

A Treatise Concerning Religious Affections (1746)
A TREATISE
Concerning
Religious Affections.
In Three Parts;

PART I. Concerning the Nature of the Affections, and their Importance in Religion.
PART II. Shewing what are no certain Signs that religious Affections are gracious, or that they are not.
PART III. Shewing what are distinguishing Signs of truly gracious and holy Affections.

By Jonathan Edwards, A.M.
and Pastor of the First Church in Northampton.

Levit. ix. ult. and x. 1, 2. And there came a Fire out from before the Lord, upon the Altar; and when all the People saw it, they fled; and fell on their Faces. And Nadab and Abihu offered strange Fire before the Lord; which he commanded them not: And there went out a Fire from the Lord, and devoured them; and they died before the Lord.

Cant. ii. 12, 13. The Flowers appear on the Earth, the Time of the Singing of Birds is come, and the Voice of the Turtle is heard in our Land: the Fig-tree putteth forth her Figs, and the Vines with the tender Grapes, give a good Smell. Ver. 17. Take us the Flowers, the little Fowers, which spill the Vines; for our Vines have tender Grapes.

BOSTON:
Printed for S. Kneeland and T. Green in Queen-streets, over against the Prison. 1746.
Religious Affections: Trajectories and Text

• Structure

• Part I: Nature and Importance of the Affections (based on a sermon of I Peter 1:8) [Definition]

• Part II: Showing No certain Signs of Truly Gracious Affections

• Part III: The Distinguishing Signs
Religious Affections: Trajectories and Text

- Part I: Nature and Importance of the Affections (based on a sermon of I Peter 1:8-Text, Doctrine, Application)

  • Sermons on I Peter 1:8:
    - Fall 1729 They live the happiest life in this world, that live a life of love to Jesus Christ, beholding him with an eye of faith.
    - Winter 1742/43 True religion, in great part, consists in holy affections (printed as Treatise Concerning Religious Affections, 1746)
    - July 1753 to Stockbridge Indians
    - Miscellanies (for example, no. 782 “Ideas. Sense of the Heart. Spiritual Knowledge or Conviction. Faith.”)
Religious Affections: Trajectories and Text

Part I: Nature and Importance of the Affections (based on a sermon of I Peter 1:8)

- Sermon July 1753 to Stockbridge Indians - Review

Notes:

- Sermon Corpus Edwards
- Sermon structure: Text, Doctrine, Application
Religious Affections: Trajectories and Text

Part I: Nature and Importance of the Affections

• Exegesis
  • Three fold trial (93)
  • Benefits of trial for true faith (93)
  • True religion: love and joy (93, 94)
Religious Affections: Trajectories and Text

Part I: Nature and Importance of the Affections

- Doctrine
  - Definition of true religion (95)
  - Two faculties of the soul (96, 97)
  - Will and affections two faculties? (97)
  - Affections and passions are the same? (98)
  - Scripture and affections (99, 102 [no.4], 106 [no.5], 108-112 [no.6, David, Paul, John, Christ])
Religious Affections: Trajectories and Text

Part I: Nature and Importance of the Affections

- Doctrine
  - Re-define “true religion (100, 101)
  - what is the religion of heaven? (113)
  - Expressions of true religion? [no.9, 114, 115]
  - True religion matter of the heart? (116, 117)
Religious Affections: Trajectories and Text

Part I: Nature and Importance of the Affections

- Application ("Inferences")
  - What is meant by
    - “There seems to be too much of a disposition this way, prevailing in this land at this time”? (119)
    - “extraordinary work he has lately wrought in this land”? (121)
  - What are affections?
Edwards last and greatest work on revival, it is a masterpiece of what scholars now call “religious psychology.” The fundamental question of the work is “How can one determine what is a true work of the Spirit of God in one’s own heart?”

I. Theology of Affections
What the heart loves, the will chooses, and the mind justifies. “Let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God.” 1 John 4:7.
Religious Affections: Trajectories and Text

A Genuína Experiência Espiritual

Jonathan Edwards

Uma versão reduzida, re-escrita para os leitores de hoje, a partir do clássico A treatise concerning religious affections, por Jonathan Edwards. A.M. (1703-1758)

A obra completa, em inglês, está disponível na Banner of Truth Trust, Edimburgo, EH126EL, Escócia

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