

The Resolutions of Jonathan Edwards

Resolution 32: Resolved, to be strictly and firmly faithful to my trust, that that in Prov. 20:6, “A faithful man who can find?” may not be partly fulfilled in me.

Anchor Text: Psalm 15

This is a simple resolution but it assumes a definition. The goal of Edwards’ resolve here is to be “faithful”. He cites Proverbs 20 which is a rhetorical question that demands an answer. The simple reality is that there are very few “faithful” men (or women) in our world today and this truth should inspire modern day Christians to aspire to faithfulness. If we are going to be “faithful”, however, the very first thing we must ask is what does it mean to be faithful? Thankfully, Scripture provides a clear answer and Psalm 15 is a great passage to help us in understanding what faithfulness looks like.

1. A faithful man is a holy man
 - a. Notice here that holiness is defined in two ways...
 - i. First, a holy man is one who walks “blamelessly” doing what is right
 1. Obviously, this assumes a standard of right and wrong
 2. How do we know what is blameless and right? The answer is found in the Word of God!
 3. A faithful man is an obedient man
 - ii. Second, a holy man is one who speaks truth
 1. Context demands that we point out that this verse speaks, specifically, about speaking truth to ourselves
 - a. We are faithful when we remind our own hearts of the truth
 2. Additionally, a faithful man is one who speaks the truth to others
 - b. Folks, there is no getting around this reality, you cannot be faithful unless you walk in the truth!
2. A faithful man is a man who “honors the Lord”
 - a. Admittedly, there is great overlap here as a faithful man is most certainly a man walks in obedience before the Lord, but faithfulness also includes our interactions with others
 - b. Notice that verse 4 and 5 discuss our interactions with the world
 - i. A faithful man is one who honors his word
 1. This man does so even to his own detriment
 2. Faithfulness looks like honoring our commitments!
 - a. This is a sorely needed discussion in our world

- b. So many people commit to so many things but follow through on very little
 - c. A faithful man is one who counts the cost of all that he commits to undertake and then follows through even when circumstances change or the sacrifice is greater than he anticipated
 - d. The world must know that we can be trusted because we represent a God who must be believed
- ii. second, a faithful man is one who does right by others
 - 1. we are not to take advantage of those who need our assistance
 - 2. this is the point of v. 5
 - a. we are not to exploit people financially
 - i. Righteous men do not capitalize on those who are down and out
 - ii. They understand that the Lord has cared for them and they desire to extend the same assistance to others
 - b. We are not to wrongly charge the innocent with wrongdoing
 - i. Faithful men do not participate in corrupt talk that seeks to villainize or besmirch those who are innocent of the charge
 - ii. This means that faithfulness entails honoring what is true and prosecuting only those who are in error