

The Resolutions of Jonathan Edwards

Resolution #43: Resolved, never henceforward, till I die, to act as if I were any way my own, but entirely and altogether God's

Anchor Text: 1 Corinthians 6:20

Today's resolution reminds us that we are not our own masters. Years ago, I did a funeral for a man that I didn't know. His children were involved in my church in Columbus, GA and when he died, they asked if I would preach at the service. I don't recall anything about our time together in the chapel but the graveside included one of the saddest moments I have experienced in ministry to this point. As we were preparing to pray and then leave the graveside for him to be buried, one family member stated that the deceased had one final request and it was a song. The funeral director hit play and a song began to play. The lyrics said, in part, "I did it my way..."

I recall grieving in that moment because of what this sentiment declared. Indeed, this man had done things his way and now, as he lay in the grave, he was experiencing the eternal ramifications of a life that is not submitted to the Lordship of Christ.

You see, dear friends, Paul's words in 1 Corinthians 6 remind us that part and parcel of the Christian life is not doing things "my way". Instead, the Gospel teaches me that Christ died for my sins, He purchased me with His blood and, therefore, all authority on heaven and earth and in my life has been given to Him. A true believer no longer does things "his way", a true disciple now submits to Christ.

1. The Gospel Truth

- a. As we stated above, the Gospel teaches us that we have been redeemed
- b. Jesus came to live and die in order to free us from bondage to sin and death
- c. He offered up His life for our own to purchase us from our previous state
- d. He did this for our good but He also did this for His glory
 - i. God's grand design in salvation is not to simply transfer your eternal destination from hell to heaven, His design is to transform you from a lowly sinner to a righteous saint
 - ii. Furthermore, His design is to use you to expand His Kingdom which means that His expectation is that we would lovingly, joyfully and truly submit to His call

2. The Ramifications

- a. If you and I are going to accept Christ's invitation to life in Him, we also must embrace His rightful place as Lord in our lives
 - i. We cannot separate the two

- ii. Christ is our Savior only if He is also our Lord
 - b. This is the reason behind the flow of our text for the day
 - i. We were bought with a price (Jesus died to redeem us)... therefore (as a result of this truth) glorify God (obey Him) with your bodies
 - ii. Every part of our being belongs to God because:
 - 1. He made us
 - 2. He chose us
 - 3. He saved us
 - 4. He reigns over us
 - c. Do you live this way?
 - i. Its one thing to affirm these truths in principle, but what about in practice?
 - ii. Are you “entirely and altogether” God’s (as Edwards says)?
 - 1. Who gives your marching orders?
 - 2. Who ordains your priorities?
 - 3. Whose will do you seek?
 - 4. Who do you trust?
 - 5. Who do you conform your life to?
 - 6. Who do you love the most?
 - 7. Does your time reflect this priority?
 - 8. Do your kids and your spouse and your family see the priority of Christ in your life?
 - 9. Is there any area of your life that is not currently faithful to the Lordship of Christ? If so, let this resolution be a challenge to repent and adhere to the Lord’s standard
- 3. A Closing Truth
 - a. While this talk of authority might seem domineering, I want to remind you that Christ is a loving, kind and merciful Savior
 - i. It is true that He possesses all authority (see Matthew 28:16-20) but He does not utilize this authority to shame us or beat us down
 - ii. What you will find is that those who submit to Him will enjoy an easy burden
 - 1. He absolutely demands our faithfulness but He does so while full of love and compassion and purpose for us
 - 2. Those who submit to Jesus will not regret this decision, instead they will see that His way includes difficulty but it leads to joy and purpose that the world knows not