

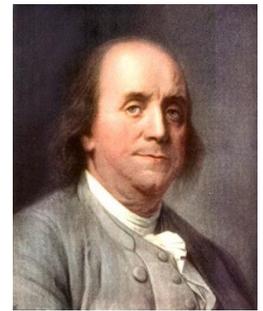
Benjamin Franklin

Exact contemporary of Jonathan Edwards

Comparison & Contrast of Franklin Versus Edwards

Similarities

- 1 - Edwards and Franklin's beliefs are the root of every other thing they accomplished in their lives.
- 2 - Although both men believed in completely different theories, they both lived by a high moral code.
 - Franklin listed out his highest virtues in *The Autobiography* and systematically tried to master every one.
 - Edwards wrote out his *Resolutions of Jonathan Edwards* that expressed his conviction on how one should live
- 3 - Both men tried to better themselves due to their strong beliefs.
 - Franklin charted his success in following his list of virtues and engaging in rigorous self-examination
 - Edwards read his Resolutions once a week and also engaged in rigorous self-examination
- 4 - Both men also shared their beliefs with others.
 - Edwards - his writings and sermons expressed his beliefs and convictions
 - Franklin
 - His "proverbs" and "maxims" were stated outright in *Poor Richard's Almanac*
 - His maxims and values permeated all of his writings
- 5 - Franklin and Edwards' convictions were their motivations for their work.
 - They both STRONGLY believed that a person is called by God to serve mankind
- 6 - Edwards and Franklin were highly driven to succeed with a strong sense of purpose.
- 7 - Both men had a Puritan work ethic instilled in them.



Differences

- 1 - Franklin, who was a deist, believed that everything could be solved by reason.
 - Edwards was a Calvinist. He believed in predestination and the spiritual power of God.
- 2 - Franklin was engaged in worldly concerns. He was mostly motivated by a happy life on Earth.
 - Edwards was more concerned with life after death. He was motivated by his religion and the spiritual power of God.
- 3 - Franklin was a part of The Age of Enlightenment.
 - Edwards was involved in The Great Awakening. This was the last attempt to revive Puritanism.

A Traditional view of the Contrast between the two is:

- Edwards points back to Puritan Past
- Franklin points to the Future

Benjamin's Life

In summary :-D Boston to Philadelphia to London to Philadelphia to London to France to Philadelphia...

Benjamin's Writings

He used Pseudonyms often!

- Silence Dogood Letters
- Poor Richard's Almanac - Richard Saunders

As a Writer, He is Characterized

- by being a man who knew how to put words together with wit and irony!
- by being a writer whose writing oozed with his values and beliefs

The Autobiography

Includes His List of Virtues

Daily Schedule

Letter to Ezra Stiles

His statement of Creed was written in his Letter to Ezra Stiles



Abigail Adams

The most prolific letter writer
in America
Her letters chronicle life in the
colonies as they become a new
nation
Fascinating family!