

The background of the cover is a winter landscape. The bottom half shows a snow-covered ground with a line of bare, snow-laden trees. Above the trees, a bright sunburst effect radiates from the center, with rays extending upwards and outwards across a deep blue sky. The rays are a mix of white and light blue, creating a sense of light and warmth.

In. Light of the Son

Seeing everything through the Father's love for the Son

ANDREW MOODY

At a university Bible study on John 15 in the 1980s, Andrew Moody dared to wonder out loud why the Son, since he is God, had to obey the Father.

The answer to his question, which was a turning point for Andrew, was both simple and profound: the Father's love for the Son is the reason for everything, from creation to the final chapter of Revelation.

In Light of the Son distills decades of study and reflection on the interrelationships of the persons of the Trinity to help readers think more clearly and deeply about this central truth of the Christian faith. Instead of focusing on the distinct roles of the persons of the Godhead as most studies do, this book approaches the Trinity from the perspective of the relationship between the Father and Son.

Andrew Moody explains how reading the Bible through the lens of the relationship between the Father and Son reveals new truths and sheds light on who we are, who God is, and how we are to love and glorify him. Quite simply, how you think about the Father and the Son changes everything.

"Noticing these interlocking patterns of divine and human reality changed everything for me. I felt like I was in a ship passing over the edge of an oceanic trench. On the surface nothing had changed, but the ocean bed below had just dropped away to measureless depths. Everything meant more because there was a world of meaning that I had never considered."—Andrew Moody





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For Emma and Jack.
Praying that you would always rejoice
to know Jesus as your true brother
and God as your true Father.

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Introduction

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. (John 1:1-5)

I CAN TELL YOU THE exact moment this book began—when I began to see things differently. It was 1986, and I was an architecture student at Melbourne University. I was sitting on a couch studying the Bible with the other members of my church home group.

The passage under discussion was John 15, where Jesus calls himself the vine and explains the necessity of abiding in him. But I was stuck on verse 10: “If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I

have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love". I wondered what this meant. Why does Jesus need to obey God when he *is* God? What does our obedience have to do with his obedience?

The group leaders weren't sure what to make of it either. They suggested that I read more of John's Gospel, research what others had said on the topic, and present my findings as a study the following week.

That was a turning point in my life. During that week I came into contact with an idea that would captivate my mind and change my understanding of the world. This idea has pursued me through decades of study, work, ministry and family life. It has made me think harder about the Bible and brought me into contact with ancient creeds and forgotten theologians. It has forced me to grapple with the meanings of strange words and to appreciate the concepts of orthodox tradition. This idea led me into controversy in the mid 1990s and subsequently into eight years of doctoral research. It has brought me trouble as well as teaching opportunities and years of thinking, praying, reading and rethinking.

This book explains that big idea and what I have learned about it since that first encounter on the couch.

The big idea

The big idea that began to grab hold of me all those years ago is simply this: that the fundamental reality in heaven and earth is the love that God the Father has for his Son.

You and I and everyone and everything else exist because God loves his Son and wants others to know, love and glorify him too. This love explains our creation and our salvation and defines our past, present and future.

When I explain this idea to people I often find that it stirs them at a deep level. They say that it rings true and resonates with what they have read in the Bible and experienced of God through Christ. I pray that this book will enrich your understanding of Scripture and that you will be persuaded, or reminded, that your life is not about you but about something much greater. I pray that this understanding will help you think and speak and live, and that it will help you to explain your faith and celebrate the gospel of Jesus Christ in this dying world.

This big idea sounds simple—and in one sense it is. But it also leads to other, more complex, insights. When we read the Bible using the relationship between the Father and Son as our lens, we see new things. We discover how the Old Testament, and even the structure of creation, prepares the way for Jesus. We find that God's wisdom and control over history are greater than we ever imagined. We unearth startling facts about ourselves and about our part in God's plans.

Focusing on the Father's love for the Son as we read the Bible can also help us understand more about who Jesus is and the significance of what he's done for us. This focus can also help us explain the doctrine of the Trinity—and how it's expressed in creation, redemption and our glorious future—in terms that make sense to people of other faiths. The Father-Son relationship

unveils a way of looking at the world that isn't just more coherent, but more wonderful.

To put it simply, when we look at the world in the light of Jesus and his sonship, everything is illuminated.