

*'Broader and more complex . That is the view of Edwards that Michael McClenahan reaches for here, and achieves in impressive fashion. Recent interpretations of Edwards on soteriology, and especially the pivotal doctrine of justification, have been simplistic and ahistorical, McClenahan insists. Employing a careful methodology that chastises the partial scholar and paying special heed to historical context, this rich study provides a reappraisal of Edwards that shows how he was grounded in, but also creatively adapted, the Reformed tradition.*

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Jonathan Edwards (1703–1758) is widely regarded as North America's most influential theologian. Throughout the early decades of his ministry he engaged in a public and sustained debate with 'Arminian' theology, a crusade that contributed significantly to the events of the Great Awakening.

This book investigates the contours and substance of this theological war. In establishing a clearer historical context for this polemic, McClenahan seeks to overturn the scholarly consensus that Edwards' own theology was a twisting of the Reformed tradition. By demonstrating that Edwards' interlocutor was the dead English archbishop, John Tillotson, McClenahan provides the hermeneutical key for many of Edwards' most significant works. Justification by faith is one of the most contested doctrines in contemporary theology and Jonathan Edwards, referred to as America's Augustine, wrote extensively on this area. His is a voice that many people are keen to hear.