

The Case of the Missing Father

By: Alane Rozelle

It was a dark and stormy early morning, typical for the season, but Detective Servetus was feeling particularly uneasy that Sunday. Something niggled at him in the deep recesses of his mind that he couldn't yet decipher: he had the strangest premonition that a very important person had disappeared. Later that day, as he reflected on the songs, prayers and message that he had heard during the morning worship service, it all began to dawn on him who had gone missing. Even more astounding was the realization that the disappearance had gone relatively unnoticed and had not even been reported to the authorities, nor shown up in the newspapers. The disappearance had been accomplished gradually, and in such a subtle manner, that there was no doubt in Det. Servetus' mind that this had been the dastardly deed of a very crafty individual, none other than his long-time nemesis, Lew Cipher. He could see now that the disappearance of this famous person had been long coming, but because it had been carried out so slowly and subtly, it had gone virtually unperceived. He chided himself for not having noticed sooner; after all, he was the erudite sleuth, widely lauded for his ability to sniff out a crime given the vaguest of clues, the coldest of trails. How then could he have missed the signs this time? Det. Servetus realized it had all begun with those contentious church councils of the 300s-500s— so much back-stabbing, political wrangling, and twisting of scripture. He shook his head in disgust. It was like a Dr. Seuss nightmare: one God, two Gods, he's God, who's God? I do not like a God that's man, I do not like it, Sam I am. Servetus clutched his head as if to keep it from spinning off his shoulders. He recalled the lyrics of a popular praise song from that morning's service called "One True God: *One voice in the dark A song that lights up the stars One breath that gives life One sovereign in power Who speaks with thunder and fire One Lord One King There is no other that can compare to You You are the one alone in greatness The one who never changes* Such powerful, beautiful words echoing sentiments of the prophet Isaiah. Servetus had joined his voice with the others'. Then suddenly the identity of that One True God, according to the song, was revealed in the next stanza: *Jesus You are The One who rose in power The One who reigns forever Jesus the one true God One man on a cross.* Hold on! Servetus grabbed his Bible, frantically flipping to [John 17:3](#). He was right! That song's lyrics explicitly contradicted Jesus' declaration that the Father is the One True God. He opened his laptop to begin a search of other songs that had recently been used in the worship services. "Saviour King" popped up. Oh, he loved that melody. And the words! *Let now our hearts burn with a flame, A fire consuming all for **your Son's** holy name, And with the heavens we declare you are our king, We love you, Lord.* Certainly that is referring to the Father, thought Servetus, because it speaks of "your Son" here and a bit further it states "*You asked **your Son** to carry this, the heavy cross, our weight of sin.*" Wait a minute! Servetus' eyes fell on the last phrase: *Let now your church shine as the bride that you saw in your heart as **you offered up your life.*** What is this? How can the "you" of this song be both the Father and the Son at the same time? This makes no sense whatsoever. Servetus re-read the lyrics. The word "Father" didn't actually appear in the song; only the Son was clearly mentioned. Servetus' heart sunk. It was just as he had suspected: the Father had been disappeared. He had been slowly and surely eliminated from the worship picture. The great detective remembered the prayer of the pastor that morning. It had been full of thankfulness towards "God" and "Jesus" but had jumped back and forth so many times in an arbitrary fashion between the two that Servetus had lost track of whether the "you" in the "We thank you" meant the Father or the Son. He rubbed his chin, lost in thought. Of course! Jesus had been equated to God to the point that the Father had been lost. The Father had been replaced by his own Son! What an ingenious disappearing act. People hadn't even noticed! If he asked where the Father was, they simply stared at him uncomprehendingly and pointed at Jesus. Could this "Case of the Disappearing Father" get any worse, he wondered? He was about to find out. That evening Det. Servetus decided to attend a revival meeting led by a well-known evangelist highly-recommended by the pastor. He was determined to get to the bottom of this mystery and to discover once and for all whether the Father had truly been disappeared from the center of Christianity. As he entered the auditorium, already packed with eager worshippers, he

could hear and feel the buzz of excitement. The stage was lavishly hung with banners proclaiming “Jesus is Lord” and “Jesus is the Reason” and “All Hail King Jesus.” Hmm, sure looks like a directed focus on Jesus the Son, he said to himself, but he would give the evangelist a chance to speak first. He would hear him out. Just then the great speaker was introduced to ear-splitting applause and drum rolls. “I love the Lord God Jesus with all ... my ... heart!” he shouted. And with that the disenchanted but still great Detective Servetus walked out.

Case closed.