

Channel 1 News – October 4, 1828

**BREAKING STORY:
“JESUS MAY NOT BE GOD”**



Technical Crew:

👤 Director

Newscast Characters:

👤 Anchor

Props: desk, with microphone and papers

- Sits at desk
- Introduces story: Today’s breaking story—The Bible may not directly say anywhere that Jesus IS God. Could Jesus be less than Divine? What does this mean for Christians everywhere?
- Throws to field reporters
- Wraps the segment up

👤 Field Reporter(s)

Props: microphone, notepads

- Interview various “witnesses” listed below
 - ▶ What do you think about Jesus – is he God or not?
 - ▶ What do you think it says in the Bible?
 - ▶ Does it matter whether Jesus is God or not?

***ask follow-up questions in response to their statements**

💡 Hosea Ballou (thinks about this on occasion)

Prop: Bible

- (1) The Bible says that God sent his son. You can't be someone's son and be your own Father, can you? (2) Jesus is sent to reconcile people to God, NOT that God needs to be reconciled to humans (God never screwed up, did he?). Jesus was meant to lead humans to God—to come from the side of human beings; not BE God.
- But in any case (as it can be tricky to sort out), that's not as important as why Jesus came in the first place. Jesus came to change people's minds about God, not about himself (as God). Oh, and by the way, salvation counts for everyone not just some people. Universalists rock!
- Anyway, like I always say, "Doubt is always the first step toward truth, and asking questions is the rest of the path."

💡 William Ellery Channing (has a LOT to say about this)

Prop: Bible

- The Bible is written in human language, so it must have been written by humans, right?
- The Bible has all kinds of inconsistencies because it was written for one group of people, in particular situations, a very long time ago. We need to be super careful when we read it.
- Anyone who reads the Bible knows that the Bible does NOT say that Jesus is God and should be worshipped as God. The Bible refers to three Divine Beings (Father, Son and Holy Spirit), but it NEVER literally says that they are all the same God.
- Okay, okay... So in the Book of John, Jesus does say, "I and the Father are One." But we don't think that he literally meant that he IS God, anymore than he literally meant it when he said "I am the door" or "I am the vine." It was meant metaphorically and spiritually.
- God didn't write the Bible. God wouldn't give us the Bible to *reveal* Truth, then mess with our heads by making some of it true and some of it not, and leave much of it obscure and hope that we figure it out. What kind of loving God would toy with people like that? There IS truth contained in the Bible, but people who wrote it made mistakes and inconsistencies.
- Unitarian Christianity is a new and ever-changing thing. We no longer just believe everything that earlier Christians believed. We want to FOLLOW Jesus, not WORSHIP Jesus.

💡 **An average contemporary Christian (has an opinion, but doesn't necessarily *think* about where it came from, although many thoughtful Christians *do*...)**

Prop: Christian T-shirt

- The Church says Jesus is God, so I believe them. We've always believed that, right?
- I believe in the Trinity—God is three and one at the exact same time. God is the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; and they are all the same being, like how water can be liquid, ice, or steam... but it's all H₂O. See how that makes sense? Crystal clear!
- The Bible talks about Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; and the Bible is *never wrong*. It was *written by GOD himself (maybe herself)*.

💡 **Emerson (gets himself in trouble at graduation when his valedictory speech says that Jesus was NOT God)**

Prop: Walking stick, graduation cap

- Making Jesus into God ruins the whole point. He was a prophet, trying to show us that ANYONE can live a holy life and have an experience of God for themselves. He was showing us how to be the best *human* we could possibly be.
- If Jesus is God, none of us has any hope of ever being good like him, because we can't be perfect like God. But if Jesus is human, we definitely have a chance.

💡 **Jesus (the character it's all about)**

Prop: Sheet to wrap around like a garment

- I'd like to help somehow, as I'm a helpful kind of person.
- Yeah, I *did* say that thing in the Book of John, "I and the Father are one." But I also went on to say, "I am in the Father and the Father is in me." Does that help any?
- Later in the Book of John, if you read it, you see that I also say that "The Father is greater than I." Check it out. Chapter 14, verse 28. Does that help?
- I never said people should worship me. Never said it. You can look, but I never said it. Does that help?
- Of course, the New Testament offers a biography of my life from several people's vantage points, including a bunch of people who later edited and translated it. No one even thought to write anything down until about 100 years after my death! Does that help?