

## *The Da Vinci Code*

Dear reader,

Have you read Dan Brown's book, *The Da Vinci Code*? Or watched the movie?

If not, we recommend that you do not. If so, and you claim to be a Christian, you must take a stand against what you read, saw, or heard.

"Of course a Christian church would say so," you might think. After all, the central claim of *The Da Vinci Code* is that the Christian church has twisted the real truth about Jesus. The real truth about Jesus, according to this book, is that Jesus married Mary Magdalene, fathered a child with her, and appointed her to be the head of Christianity when Jesus died. However, after Jesus died, the twelve disciples forcibly took over the leadership of the Christian church after Jesus died, and taught what they wanted us to know about Jesus.

If the claims of *The Da Vinci Code* are true, the Christian church is a farce, and Christianity as we think of it today is a hoax. If in fact these claims are true, of course some would be telling us, "Don't read the book!"

This, however, is not our reason for taking a stand against this work.

Our reason is that the work is blasphemous. The truth about Jesus is found in the Bible. This truth *The Da Vinci Code* attacks.

Notice that Dan Brown tips his hand to this even before we open the first page. For on the cover of the book itself, after the title, we find the words: "A Novel."

By definition, a novel is a work of fiction. The story found in *The Da Vinci Code* is not true. Yet every author of every novel tries to convey a certain message. When reading a novel, one must discern whether the author's point is true or not.

The Bible is the standard by which to discern all right and wrong. Jesus indicated this when He prayed to God, "thy word is truth" (John 17:17). In the Old Testament, long before Jesus lived, God's people made the same confession: "all thy commandments are truth" (Psalm 119:151). God's "commandments" refers to His entire Word.

How can the Bible be this standard of truth? Is not the Bible merely a collection of the church's ideas about God?

No. The Bible is God's Word to His church, by His apostles and prophets. And God always speaks truth. Titus 1:2 tells us that God "cannot lie." So that Christian church whose teaching is faithful to the Bible is not afraid that she is deceived, or that the teachings of historic Christianity are a hoax.

We can compare the Bible's teachings about Jesus to Dan Brown's novel ideas. If Dan Brown's ideas accord with the Bible, then Dan Brown is teaching truth. But if his ideas contradict the Bible, then Dan Brown is telling us the lie. Let us see . . .

*Was Jesus married?*

Dan Brown says Jesus was married and had a child. The Bible never mentions such a marriage of Jesus, and particularly not such a marriage to Mary Magdalene. It does point out that Jesus always emphasized spiritual

relationships as being more important than earthly ones (Matthew 12:46-49). It also speaks of Christ as being the head of His church (Ephesians 5:23ff), a pattern which husbands are to follow in their marriages. In other words, Jesus' bride is the true Christian church.

*Whom did Jesus appoint to be the leaders of the church after He died?*

Mary Magdalene was the first to see Jesus after He arose (John 20:1ff). But to her, His first words were: "Touch me not." Rather strange, if she was his wife and successor. But He did commission His special disciples to preach the gospel about Him to all the nations of the world, and baptize believers (Matthew 28:18ff).

*Was Jesus God?*

Dan Brown says that Jesus is not God and was not God, but that the church decided to speak of Him as God anyway. But before Jesus was born, the angel told Joseph and Mary that He would be called the Son of God, because Mary would conceive Him as a virgin, without the aid of a man, by the power of God alone (Matthew 1:20, Luke 1:35). The devils confessed Jesus was the Son of God (Matthew 8:29). And Jesus Himself claimed to be eternal, which only God is (John 8:58).

More could be said. Many books have now been written in response to *The Da Vinci Code*. You can find them at your local bookstore or online.

But enough has been said to demonstrate that *The Da Vinci Code* is blasphemous. If Jesus is not God, He cannot save from sin. For God sent His Son into our flesh, to pay for our sins by dying on the cross. This required Jesus to be God; for mere man cannot bear the infinite burden of God's wrath, even in an eternity of hell. Jesus, being God, did so while He hung on the cross. This we must believe to be saved (John 3:16).

One certainly cannot believe both the Bible *and* be convinced that the message of *The Da Vinci Code* is right. One is right, and the other is wrong. Dan Brown is wrong. Jesus is right. And Dan Brown's idea about Jesus is, well - just plain novel.

## **Pastor Douglas Kuiper**

*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. . . . And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.*  
John 1:1, 14

*Again the high priest asked him, and said unto him, Art thou the Christ, the Son of the Blessed? And Jesus said, I am: and ye shall see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven.*  
Mark 14:61-62

*And Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and my God.*  
John 20:28

*And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.* John 20:30-31

*I believe . . . in one LORD JESUS CHRIST, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds, God of God; Light of Light, true God of true God; . . .*  
The Nicene Creed