

Answers to the Secrets in the Da Vinci Code!!

Note: Go to **www.christianlifetools.org** and click on the Sermons Page for a 46-minute sound recording packed with more info.

Let's take the "duh..." out of the Da Vinci Code. What do I mean by the duh? I will tell you. The so-called code is so much hype, sensationalism and fantasy that it inspires a full-fledge gasp that can only be expressed with the famous childhood exclamation: "Duh!!"

Read on as I will reveal five "Duh's" in "The 'Duh' Vinci Code."

DUH # 1 – IT IS FICTION

When I first heard about the *Da Vinci Code* I went straight to the Barnes and Noble bookstore to see what all the commotion was about. I walked to the shelf that was loaded with copies of Dan Brown's book. I was amused that it was located in the "Fiction Section." I kept walking right out the door. It seemed that the people who operate the bookstore had no problem stocking the book in its proper category: fiction, i.e., NOT TRUE – MADE UP.

Like a good story teller, Dan Brown assures us in the first page of the book that everything in his book is all true. (Remember, this is fiction). He tells us that he has uncovered a secret plot to hide things about Jesus and Mary Magdalene. The church has been desperately trying to keep these secret teachings secret. Everybody loves a secret. The Christian church is hiding rival teachings. (Remember, this is fiction).

Why worry about fiction? Why bother? The answer is plain. False doctrine is fiction, yet we are exhorted in Scripture to contend for the faith. Christians are not to be naïve. Fiction can move people. Only the truth can insure they are moved in a healthy direction. Love compels us to act and to get involved.

This leads us to Duh # 2.

DUH # 2 – NOTHING NEW

The church has always had rival teachings. Teachings that go against orthodoxy is nothing new. No one is trying to hide this fact. Jesus said that there would be false teachers. The Apostle Paul wrote many of his letters for the express purpose of defeating false teachings. *The Da Vinci Code* implies that the church is desperate in its attempt to hide divergent points of view. It may seem strange, but divergence from truth has proved to be the lifeblood of the church as it forces the church deeper into truth itself. If we love truth we have nothing to hide. Let the truth be known.

In the second century there was a Bible teacher by the name of Marcion. His teachings were plainly counter to the biblical texts as he was on a mission to disparage the God of the Old Testament and the Old Testament revelation itself. The teachings of Marcion were addressed by the church fathers: Ignatius, Justin Martyr, Irenaeus and Tertullian. These church leaders were not going to sit idly by while false doctrines were being propagated by a false teacher.

In the fourth century there was a prominent teacher by the name of Arius. He denied the deity of Christ. The problem became so troubling for the church that it ultimately caught the attention of the Roman emperor, Constantine. Emperor Constantine called for a council to convene in Nicea in 325 A.D. in an effort to bring peace to the controversy and to bring unity to Roman society.

Today, we have rival teachings such as: the Jesus Seminar, the Passover Plot, the Sacred Mushroom and the Cross, The Last Temptation of Christ, the Peter Jennings “Search for Jesus” documentary and liberal theologians abound. Controversy surrounding biblical truth is nothing new. The church is not trying to hide the truth. The truth will not hide. Lies hide. Lies live in the dark and avoid the light. Once a lie is found out another lie takes its place. This is nothing new.

This leads us to Duh # 3.

DUH # 3 – THE RELIABILITY OF THE BIBLE

The Da Vinci Code tells us that the church launched a conspiracy to reject over 80 gospels that told of the life of Jesus. The church then destroyed them so that we would be left only with the accounts of the life of Jesus that fit the agenda of the church. How can we trust in the reliability of our Bible? (Remember, this is fiction).

The Gospel of Thomas was used as an example. It was found in Egypt in the 1940's. Ah, now we have the true gospel at last. Not true. The Gospel of Thomas paints a portrait of a god far different from the God of our Bible. The Gospel of Thomas cannot pass the test of what makes Scripture. Therefore, it is right to reject it.

There is the principle of canon. "Canon" comes from the word which means "measuring rod or cane." Before anything written can be considered Scripture it must pass the test of canon, that is, it must measure up to certain standards. This criterion has served to eliminate a lot of pretenders all throughout history. There are tests for what constitutes Scripture and these tests have allowed for correction and have assured that our Bible is a collection of documents we can trust. Below is a partial list that has served the church well.

THE DEUTERONOMY 13 PRINCIPLE: Nothing can contradict a previous revelation. See Deuteronomy 13:1-4. Any strange teaching would immediately become suspect.

THE PROPHETIC PRINCIPLE: Scripture must be written by a legitimate prophet of God or someone closely connected to a true prophet of God.

THE ACCEPTANCE PRINCIPLE: The church at large must accept the teaching. It is interesting how false books of the Bible never seem to quite rise to prominence. They are not as profitable and edifying as what we now know to be in our Bible. It may also be said that the providence of God has been at work in the acceptance and rejection of certain writings.¹

The so-called gospels that *The Da Vinci Code* accuses the church of hiding fit none of the criterion necessary to be considered Scripture. We have a Bible we can trust in good faith.

This leads us to Duh # 4

DUH # 4 – THE DEITY OF CHRIST

The Da Vinci Code tells us that Jesus was a mere man – a created being. The church fabricated the story of the deity of Christ to add to the prominence of Christianity. In fact, we are told that Emperor Constantine called the Council in Nicea to force the church to accept the deity of Christ. (Remember, this is fiction). The doctrine of the deity of Christ was already a reality taught explicitly in the Scriptures. A council was not needed to force the deity of Christ on an unsuspecting church.

¹ Go to www.christianlifetools.org – the Sermons Page – "Taking the 'Duh' out of the Duh Vinci Code" – for a more detailed account. Also, go to the Christian Life Tools "ChristianBasics" page.

The Da Vinci Code makes the statement that history is written by the winners. This sound-bite logic may satisfy people who are not interested in studying to find the truth, but it falls short of telling us what really happened. For the first 300 years the Christian church was anything but winners. The church had to run for its life from persecution. Even after the council of Nicea the general population and the political climate still rejected the biblical revelation of the deity of Christ. Athanasius became famous for being the ONLY leader daring to hold out for the truth that the “winners” of his day would not accept, that is, the deity of Christ.

This leads us to our last Duh.

DUH # 5 – WE CAN KNOW THE TRUTH

The Da Vinci Code implies that since history is written by the winners we cannot know history. Dan Brown knows history and ironically he also has become a winner – a winner all the way to the bank. Can we trust this “winner?”

“The truth will set you free.”

Be careful of this quote because it is often used untruthfully. Taken out of context, this quote can be used to bolster a lie. Here is the quote in context.

Jesus said, “If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free” (John 8:31-32).

These are the words of Jesus. So, just anybody’s truth will not do. Also, there is an essential qualifier “if” that must be considered before the “then” can be realized. Without Jesus’ teaching there will be no truth and something opposite of freedom will manifest itself. Who will we choose to teach us: Dan Brown or Jesus?

Dan Brown has a gospel to replace the gospel taught by Jesus himself. Dan Brown’s gospel is found in the fiction section at the Barnes and Noble bookstores. Jesus gospel has stood the test of time and has truly set people free. There is no secret code in the gospel of Jesus Christ. The gospel is open and clear for anyone who loves the truth.

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