

Christian Apologetics

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Summary of Week 1 - 4

- We are commanded in scripture to always be ready to give a “defense” of why we believe in Jesus.
- We can know truth through observation and reason.
- God has revealed himself to us in “general” revelation.
 - Creation
 - Design
 - Moral Law

Summary Weeks 5-6: The Bible

- The history of the Bible (how we got it)
 - God's inspiration
 - Discovering the Canon
 - From Septuagint to Vulgate to King James to NIV
- Unless the New Testament is reliable, our faith is worthless since Christianity stands or falls based on a single event in history – the resurrection.
- Tests for reliability
 - Biographical Test
 - Internal Evidence
 - External Evidence
- **Conclusion – the Old and New Testaments are reliable reproductions of the original manuscripts that have been passed down through the ages**

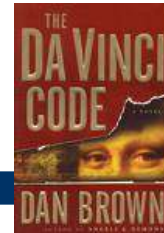
Summary – Week 7, 8 and 9

1. The resurrection is an historical fact
2. Jesus was who he claimed to be
3. The Bible is indeed the Word of God

Week 10 – Da Vinci Code

- Objectives:
 - What is the Da Vinci Code?
 - Why is it important to evangelism and apologetics?
 - What is the basis of the story?
 - How do we refute its claims of truth?

What is the Da Vinci Code?



- Popular novel written by Dan Brown in 2003
- 7 million copies of book sold in one year (a record)
- Movie made in 2006 by Ron Howard starring Tom Hanks
- Story is a murder mystery with a fast paced plot
- It is a fictional story but puts forward certain ideas as true. Such claims as:
 - Jesus was married to Mary Magdalene and had children
 - Jesus' true teachings had to do with the worship of the "sacred feminine"
 - The Church suppressed His true message
 - Traces of the true Christianity can be found throughout Western history in literature, architecture, and art.

Why is our understanding of the Da Vinci Code important?

- Scriptures tell us to contend for the faith
 - 2 Cor 10:5
 - 2 Tim 2:24-25
- The Book and Movie give us great opportunities to discuss Jesus with people who have read the book or seen the movie.



Basis of the Da Vinci Code

- Gnostic Theology
 - Early Church heresy (1st century)
 - Dualism
 - Special “knowledge” from God
 - Salvation through higher knowledge
 - Jesus passed secret knowledge to his “true” disciples and hid it from the “blind” founders of the Church. He was not a savior, but a bringer of knowledge.
 - Sexual immorality is not problematic since the physical body doesn’t matter, gender distinctions are illusions.

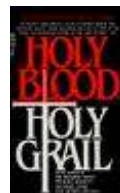


Basis of the Da Vinci Code

- First Church leaders dealt with Gnosticism
 - Acts 8
 - Justin Martyr and Irenaeus (150 AD) wrote against Simon and Gnosticism
 - Early church clarified many of its convictions due to the Gnostics. The Apostle and Nicene Creeds are the best known

Basis of the Da Vinci Code

- Early sources of information about Gnostics
 - Discovery at Nag Hammadi
 - Later discoveries
- Modern forms of Gnosticism
 - Holy Blood, Holy Grail
 - Jesus Seminar
 - New Age Movement
 - Last Temptation of Christ



Refuting the claims of the Da Vinci Code (DVC)



- Scriptures and Emperor Constantine

- DVC claims

- Bible collated by pagan Roman emperor Constantine
 - The gospels evolved through countless additions and revisions
 - Constantine burned the earlier gospels that spoke of Christ's human traits in favor of the ones that made him God like.
 - Council of Nicea voted on Christ's deity and it was a close vote.

Refuting the claims of the Da Vinci Code (DVC)



- Scriptures and Emperor Constantine

- The Truth

- Constantine did not collate the bible or finance a new one.
 - Constantine did not order the destruction of gospels.
 - The gospels did not evolve but were written by the disciples and were in use by the early church 200 years before Constantine.
 - The final list of the Bible was confirmed at the council of Hippo (393) and the council of Carthage (397), both dates were after Constantine's death.
 - The real Gospels not only show Jesus' human traits but were the basis of the support of this doctrine.
 - Constantine did order the destruction of Arius' writings which had been rejected in the Council of Nicea (325). He did not order the destruction of the Gnostic gospels.
 - The Gnostic gospels are dated around 100 years after the true gospels, this is why most church leaders rejected them.
 - The Gnostic gospels not only disagreed with the older original gospels, but they were not written by those persons whose names are attached to them.
 - The Council of Nicea was about whether Jesus was coeternal with the Father, not whether or not he was deity. The vote was 300-2.

Refuting the claims of the Da Vinci Code (DVC)



- Mary Magdalene, the Church, and Goddess Worship

- DVC Claims

- Jesus was married to Mary Magdalene
- The early church distorted Jesus' original message and led a campaign to eliminate the sacred feminine in order to control the masses that were into goddess worship
- There was a conspiracy to cover up the true identity of Mary Magdalene, she was the leader of the early church not Peter.
- The church burned over 5 million women in witch hunts during the medieval times.

Refuting the claims of the Da Vinci Code (DVC)



- Mary Magdalene, the Church, and Goddess Worship

- The Truth

- None of the gospels, including the Gnostic gospel of Mary Magdalene claim the Jesus was married.
- Brown's claim about a unified practice of ancient goddess worship is overstated, there were actually many gods and goddesses involved in ancient paganism (Artemis in Ephesus).
- Christianity continues to be the one religion that elevates women to equal status under the eyes of God.
- There is no evidence (including Gnostic gospels) that Mary M. was the leader of the early church.
- The history of the Church burning is grossly distorted by Brown.

Refuting the claims of the Da Vinci Code (DVC)



• The Prior of Sion and the Knights Templar

- DVC Claims

- The Priory of Sion is a secret society who communicates the truth about Jesus
- It was founded in 1099 by a crusades French King
- Hidden documents buried under the ruins of the Temple in Jerusalem found by the crusaders, show the Mary M. and Jesus were married and had a child.
- The Jesus bloodline continues today
- The Prior of Sion created the oldest church military orders – the Knights Templar. The knights discovered the secret and blackmailed the Church to become rich and powerful. The Church then persecuted them out of existence.

Refuting the claims of the Da Vinci Code (DVC)



• The Prior of Sion and the Knights Templar

- The Truth

- The Prior of Sion was founded in France in 1956.
- The Prior's role in this novel is said to be "proven" by a cache of documents that were discovered in the National Library in Paris. The documents actually do not exist. They were planted by a man name Pierre Plantard. This hoax was the subject of a series of French books and a BBC documentary in 1996. Plantard was shown to be an anti-semite with a criminal record for fraud.
- The Knights Templar were born during the crusades to protect Christian pilgrims during their trips to and from Jerusalem. They obtained great wealth by taking gifts from those they protected. They were persecuted by the monarchy for their wealth, not by the Church for their secrets.

Refuting the claims of the Da Vinci Code (DVC)



- What about Leonardo Da Vinci himself?

- DVC Claims

- Da Vinci left clues in his paintings about the secret he guarded as Grand Master of the Prior of Sion.
 - Mary M. is in his painting of the last supper.
 - Mona Lisa is a self portrait showing his feminine ties.



Refuting the claims of the Da Vinci Code (DVC)



- What about Leonardo Da Vinci himself?

- The Truth

- The assertion that Da Vinci was in the Prior of Sion was based upon the forged documents of Plantard.
 - The person in the last support picture that is supposed to be Mary M. is actually John.
 - The Mona Lisa is a portrait of Madonna Lisa, the wife of Francesco del Giocondo.

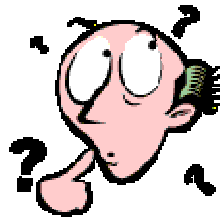
Bottom Line about Da Vinci Code

- Religious views of all people must be shown respect
- Dan Brown's Da Vinci Code does just the opposite
 - Gross misrepresentation of the facts
 - He rewrites historical fact in order to make his points
 - He is willing to pass off his distortions as “fact”

Conclusion

- The truth of Christianity
 - Religion based on historically accurate documents.
 - These texts plainly tell the story of Jesus, who claimed and proved to be God.
 - These claims are accepted by millions of believers all over the world.
 - Christianity is not anti-women but is in fact one of the most pro-women religions in existence.
- Always be ready to defend your faith
- Proverbs 12:19 “Truthful lips will be established forever, but a lying tongue is only for a moment.”

For next week...



Is evolution
true?