

Da Vinci Code Lies & Deceptions:

Dan Brown's *The Da Vinci Code* is a work of deceitful fiction. Even his so-called "Fact Page" gets it wrong. Some of the more glaring "factual errors" are listed below. The response points were mostly created by **Catholic Answers** (www.catholic.com). I have either lightly added a point or two or edited the answer for content.

1. **Jesus is not God. He was only a man.**
 - In John 20:28, Thomas falls at Jesus' feet, exclaiming, "*My Lord and my God!*" Paul tells us that Jesus chose to be born in humble, human form even though he could have remained in equal glory with the Father, for he was "*in the form of God*" (Phil. 2:6).
2. **Jesus was married to Mary Magdalene.**
 - Bible makes no mention or implication that Jesus was married or was anything but chaste and celibate. Jesus himself promotes celibacy as the greater good (Matt. 19:12). The authors of the New Testament regularly depict the Church as "*the bride of Christ*" (2 Cor. 11:2; Eph. 5:21-33; cf. Rev. 21:9-10). This metaphor would never have developed if a flesh-and-blood "Mrs. Jesus" was living just down the street.
3. **She is to be worshiped as a goddess.**
 - Brown's evidence for this nonsense is from gnostic writings, whose earliest writings appear centuries after Christ's Ascension. Oddly enough, Brown twists their original meanings into things the gnostic writers never intended.
4. **Jesus got her pregnant, and the two had a daughter.**
 - No evidence biblically or historically (see the answer to error #2).
5. **That daughter gave rise to a prominent family line that is still present in Europe today.**
 - Flash! This just in...Elvis is alive and well and is living in Pensacola.
6. **The Bible was put together by a pagan Roman emperor.**
 - Jesus and the apostles quote from the Septuagint, which was a popular version of the Old Testament established hundreds of years before Constantine was born. Jesus' Apostles wrote the New Testament. The earliest writings also date hundreds of years before Constantine.
7. **Jesus was viewed as a man and not as God until the fourth century, when he was deified by the emperor Constantine.**
 - Christians have always understood Jesus to be 100% God and 100% man. It's what makes us Christians, not Muslims, Buddhists, Mormons or Jehovah's Witnesses. (See John 20:28). At the time of Constantine there arose "the Arian Heresy," which denied Jesus divinity. The Nicean council ratified Jesus divinity based on the historical teachings and Traditions passed down from the apostles themselves.
8. **The Gospels have been edited to support the claims of later Christians.**
 - There isn't any historical evidence. The early church had many enemies. None of their attacks or accusations substantiates Brown's claims of an alternative but suppressed Gospel. The earliest writers of the Church clearly and consistently teach what was believed then and what is still believed today: Jesus is the Son of God, born of a Virgin, died for our sins, rose from the dead and Ascended into heaven. He was not married and he lived a chaste life.

9. **In the original Gospels, Mary Magdalene rather than Peter was directed to establish the Church.**

- No apostolic letter or Gospel suggests Mary Magdalene's role was greater than it is traditionally understood to be. The Church canonized her a saint. The Church has always honored her as a devoted follower and disciple of Jesus. Much of what Brown calls the "original Gospels" were written long after the last apostle had died and lacks any historical credibility or substantiation.
- From **Catholic Answers**: "In the second and third centuries, gnostic heretics began to manufacture writings that falsely claimed to be from the apostles, but since they had not been passed down in the churches from the beginning, they were rejected. In response to these new, false writings the churches drew up lists of the authentic books that had been handed down from the apostles. A famous list of the sacred writings from the mid-second century is known as the Muratorian Canon."

10. **There is a secret society known as the "Priory of Sion" that still worships Mary Magdalene as a goddess and is trying to keep the truth alive.**

- The Priory of Sion is the name of a now defunct social club. One member, Pierre Plantard, made bogus claims of its antiquity and historical membership, but his former associates have denounced him. In 1996 the founder of the Priory of Sion, Andre' Bonhomme stated publicly, "...It was four friends who came together to have fun."

11. **The Catholic Church is aware of all this and has been fighting for centuries to keep it suppressed. It often has committed murder to do so.**

- If that is true then why is Brown still alive? The Church hasn't done a very good job suppressing the information. Much of the work Brown references can be found at any commercial book store (*and not all of it is sold in the "fantasy" section*).

12. **The Catholic Church is willing to and often has assassinated the descendents of Christ to keep his bloodline from growing.**

- Dan Brown needs our prayers. The Bible teaches a house divided can not stand and that no one can serve two masters. Therefore how could the Catholic Church be around for 2000 years if she condones murder with one hand and with the other preaches such tenets as, "Turn the other cheek," "Love your enemies," and "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you."?

13. **What's the big deal. Its just fiction?**

- Catholics should be concerned about the book because it not only misrepresents their Church as a murderous institution but also implies that the Christian faith itself is utterly false.
- From **Catholic Answers**: Fiction can't change the basic facts about major historical figures without being subject to criticism. Christians have a right to be outraged when the basic historical facts about Christ are falsified...Brown has stressed the ostensible accuracy of the book on his web site and in interviews...(he) has gone to great lengths to mislead people into thinking that the novel has a historical basis...(Consequently) he deserves sharp criticism especially since he has made such extensive efforts to convince the reader his work is not fiction.