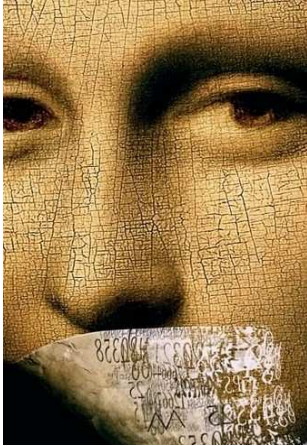


## Cracks in the Da Vinci Code

Our pop culture loves spy thrillers, murder mysteries and conspiracy theories. No wonder *The Da Vinci Code* by Dan Brown has sold over 40 million copies since 2003—it has all three. Combine that with a direct attack on the foundation of the Christian faith, and there comes forth a blockbuster Hollywood film by the same name to be released on May 19, 2006.

But serious cracks show up in *The Da Vinci Code* even upon cursory examination. Jesus was married to Mary Magdalene, they had children whose blood-lines eventually intermarry with French nobility and live to this day? Peter co-opts Jesus' real teachings for his own nefarious purposes and love of power? Da Vinci knew the truth and subsequently imparted it in a series of secret codes locked in his paintings? Jesus was not considered divine until so declared by the Emperor Constantine after AD 325? More could be related, but you get the point. These false claims are so far from the truth that they deserve no serious refutation. The only things lacking here are some ties to the latest conspiracy theory about JFK's assassination and some revelation through space aliens that Elvis lives.



However, for the sake of our crumbling Western civilization, refute them we must. I recommend Dr. Erwin W. Lutzer's (Moody Church) book, *The Da Vinci Deception* for starters. Let the truth be told. And insofar as our faith is concerned, rejoice with me that the *real* Gospel writers "did not follow cleverly devised tales when [they] made known to [us] the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but [they] were eyewitnesses of His majesty" 2 Peter 1:16.

The very realization that tens of thousands of Westerners could swallow *The Da Vinci Code's* myths, tales, fables and specious arguments gives us pause to think even more soberly about our cultural decay. *The Da Vinci Code* breaks the surface of the scum pond and an unconscionable number of so-called Christians rush to embrace its fiction, feeling they have somehow finally discovered the truth. If such a work of fiction had somehow broken through the curtain of fear surrounding the false prophet Mohamed, who can imagine what burning, pillaging and killing of innocent people might have resulted? After all, *The Da Vinci Code* is more persuasive than any of the Danish cartoonist's sketches.

Thus far I am very pleased with the reaction of the "Real McCoy" Christian believers. They are not protesting or boycotting this time. Instead, they have formed what amounts to well-prepared and equipped truth squads, appearing on all major Christian news and ministry sites from Focus on the Family to Hank Hannegraff. Bravo. Teach the truth and the lies will stand out for what they really are. It just makes good sense.