

Decoding the DaVinci Code - Part II

- Who put the N. T. together?
- Are the four Gospels trustworthy?
- Is the divinity of Jesus the creation of the church ?
- Was Jesus married to Mary Magdalene?
- Does Christianity have a negative view of women?

FACT:

By the end of the 1st century, all 27 books in our present canon had been written and received by the churches.

Circulated; compiled; confirmed:

1. Was it written by an apostle or a close companion of an apostle?
2. Was it in direct harmony with the standard teachings of the O.T. and the apostles?
3. Was it universally accepted among the churches?

The 4th century Emperor Constantine had nothing to do with the books included in the Bible.

N.T. was completed long before Constantine was even born.

The Council of Hippo in AD 393 simply ratified what the churches had already adopted !

Are the four Gospels trustworthy?

- Early dates (eyewitnesses)
- Thousands of GK manuscripts
- Testimony of ancient sources
- Strongly accepted by the churches
- Circulated among the churches as sacred Scripture
- Humanity & Deity of Jesus

What about the other gospels?

- gospel of Andrew
- gospel of Thomas
- gospel of Philip
- gospel of Mary

“Confidence by Comparison”

Scholars date these Gnostic gospels to the 2nd and 3rd centuries

- later dates
- false signatures
- fanciful content
- deny Christ’s humanity
- derogatory toward women

Is the divinity of Jesus the creation of the church?

- Council of Nicea (AD325) confirmed Jesus’ deity - did not create it!
- N.T. and early church leaders explicitly declared His deity long before this council.

Was Jesus married to Mary Magdalene?

- Not a shred of historical evidence
- All evidence indicates Jesus was single
- Judaism and Christianity esteem celibacy (prophets, Apostle Paul)

Unique Personhood & Call of Jesus

Doesn’t the Gnostic gospel of Philip reveal Jesus’ marital relationship with Mary Magdalene?

- Dated to the 3rd century
- Describes Mary as a companion, not His wife - *I Cor. 9:5*

Doesn’t Mary Magdalene appear in DaVinci’s Last Supper next to Jesus?

- DaVinci’s own early sketches identify this person as John.
- Art historians recognize this as John.
- John is depicted in art with feminine characteristics.
- If it is Mary, then where is John?

Does Christianity have a negative view of women?

- Gnostic gospels do!

- Jesus said of Mary – “I myself shall lead her in order to make her male, for every woman who will make herself male will enter heaven.” - *gospel of Thomas*
- Jesus highly valued women
- Women received high honor in the Gospels, e.g. Mary
- Lydia, Priscilla, and Junia
- Mary Magdalene gives testimony of the resurrected Christ

Jesus – God the son

- He claimed to be divine.
- He received the worship as God.
- He rose from the dead– the evidence is compelling and convincing.