

Decoding the DaVinci Code
Session 2: The Deity of Christ

Dan Brown's Position:

- "Almost everything our fathers taught us about Christ is false." (Page 235)
- Jesus was a "mortal prophet... a great and powerful man, but a man nonetheless. A mortal." (Page 233)
- "Constantine upgraded Jesus' status almost four centuries after Jesus' death." (Page 234)
- "Thousands of documents already existed chronicling His life as a mortal man." (Page 234)
- "Jesus' establishment as the 'Son of God' was officially proposed and voted on by the Council of Nicea.... [and it was] "a relatively close vote at that." (Page 233)
- "Many scholars claim that the early Church literally stole Jesus from His original followers, hijacking His human message, shrouding it in an impenetrable cloak of divinity, and using it to expand their own power." (Page 233)

What does the evidence show?

How did the belief that Jesus Christ is fully God and fully man develop? Was this a delusion foisted upon Christianity by Constantine as the DC asserts?

How do we disprove the claims of the DaVinci Code?

I. We need to show that Christ (Messiah) is represented in the OT as being Divine.

a. The New Testament sheds light on the **mission** of Messiah which is quite different from the understanding of the Jews of Jesus' day.

1. He came not as a military or political savior but for the purpose of paying the **sin debt** of the world. Isa 53:11
2. The reign of the Messianic king would be righteous, perpetual, and **universal**. Isa 9:6-7; Ps 2:1-10 Dan 7:27
3. He would be a Righteous Sufferer. His sufferings are declared to have an expiatory and **redeeming** character. Ps 22; Isa 53
4. Conclusion: **No one** other than a Divine Messiah would be able to fulfill this mission.

II. We need to show That Jesus was Messiah (Savior)

- a. **God** Himself speaking to Isaiah 43:11; Titus 2:13
- b. The **angel** speaking to Mary. Luke 1:31,35
- c. The angel speaking to **Joseph**. Matt 1:20-21
- d. **Simeon**, who was promised by the Holy Spirit that he would see the Lord's Messiah. Luke 2:25-32
- e. **John**, when he saw Jesus coming to him. John 1:29-31

III. We need to show that Jesus Himself made the claim of Divinity

- a. Jesus use of the title "**Son of Man**," Daniel 7:13-14
- b. In confirming His Messiahship to John the Baptist, **all signs** predicted by the prophets were manifested in His ministry. Isa 35:5-6
- c. The seven "I am's" of the Gospel of John
 1. The **bread of life**. John 6:35
 2. **Light** of the world. John 9:5
 3. The **door**. John 10:9
 4. The **Good Shepherd** John 10:11
 5. The **resurrection** John 11:25
 6. The **Way** John 14:6
 7. The true **Vine** John 15:1

IV. We need to show that His Disciples acknowledged Him as Divine

- a. Called the Christ by **Peter**. Matt 16:16,
- b. God by **Thomas** John 20:28
- c. King of the Jews by **Nathaniel** John 1:49
- d. Messiah by **Andrew** John 1:41
- e. Lord, and Son of God by the **twelve** throughout the Gospels.

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V. The Biblical Record in General Needs to Acknowledge Him as Divine

- a. All divine **names** are ascribed to Him
- b. All divine **attributes** are ascribed to Him
- c. He is identified as the **creator**, ruler and sustainer of the universe
- d. He is the object of **worship** which belongs only to God
- e. All men are **accountable** to Him
- f. He declares **oneness** with the Father
- g. God is not **more**, and cannot promise more or do more than Christ is said to be, to promise, and to do.

VI. God Authenticated His Claims by virtue of the resurrection.

- a. The whole argument of Jesus' Deity rests on the historical evidence that we have for the **resurrection**.
- b. Jesus' claims and ministry are **authenticated** by the resurrection. If Jesus had misrepresented himself God would have been bound by His Holy character to send Him to hell not resurrect him.
- c. If the resurrection happened **then** Jesus is who he claims to be.
- d. If the resurrection did not happen, **none** of His initial followers would have willingly devoted their lives to the propagation of the story or be willing to die for it.

VII. We need to show that the Church fathers between 33AD and 325 AD acknowledged His Divinity.

- a. Ignatius, AD **105** bishop of Antioch, writing to all the Churches of Asia Minor affirms the Deity of Christ.
- b. Clement, AD **150** "It is fitting that you should think of Jesus Christ as of God"
- c. Justin Martyr AD **160** "Being the first-begotten Word of God, is even God."
- d. Irenaeus AD **180** "Our Lord and God and Savior and King"
- e. Tertullian AD **200** "Christ our God"
- f. Origen AD **225** "No one should be offended that the Savior is also God"
- g. Novatian AD **235** "He is not only man but God also"
- h. Cyprian AD **250** "Jesus Christ , our Lord and God"
- i. Methodius AD **290** "He truly was and is...with God and being God"
- j. Lactantius AD **304** "We believe Him to be God"
- k. Arnobius AD **305** "Christ performed all these miracles...the duty of Divinity"

The DaVinci Code asserts that it was at the council of Nicaea that Jesus was deified and that the vote was extremely narrow.

What does the historical record of that council tell us?

VIII. The Council of Nicaea

- a. From the time of the Apostles to the early 300's the deity of Christ **was never** at issue. However, as the Church spread, it became necessary to explain what was meant or not meant by the dogma of His deity.
- b. The dogmas (**to think**) of doctrines formulated in this era were the result of intense thought and searching the Bible and the writings of the Fathers in order to properly interpret the meaning of the Scripture.
- c. Various teachers began to emerge and their teaching was not always congruent with the **orthodox** position.
- d. These theological controversies were resolved by the calling of the Church **Councils**. These Councils often produced great formulations that summarized the decisions of the Council IE: Nicene and Athanasian Creeds.
- d. The Council of Nicaea (**325AD**) composed of more than 300 Bishops, only 5 of which represented the Western Church.
 1. The Eastern Church, (Alexandrian) dominated by the influence of the **Greeks**, were more concerned with speculative metaphysical theology.
 2. The Western Church (Roman) which was historically lead by men who taught the orthodox view of Christ and was therefore, more concerned about **practical** problems of living Christ.
- e. At issue were various **exaggerations** of the divinity or of the humanity of Jesus.

Extremes on the humanity of Christ	Orthodoxy	Extremes on the divinity of Christ
f. Ebionitism =Jesus is the adopted son of God	If Jesus were not fully human He could not have saved us	Docetism = The body of Jesus only seemed to be real.
g. Subordinationism = The Word is lower in rank than the Father.	If Jesus were not "of God", He could not have saved us	Gnosticism =The humanity of Christ is only incidental to salvation

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h. Arianism =The Son is only the greatest of creatures.	Jesus is of the same substance, with the Father, "true God from true God	

i. The Council of Nicaea, in a nearly unanimous vote of **300 to 2** temporarily silenced those who argued for the subordination of Christ to the Father.

Conclusion

- a. He who was raised to the throne of Divine dominion; who was worshipped with honors due to God only; who was joined, with Father and with Holy Spirit as the source of grace and blessing, must in the fullest sense be Divine. There is not such a thing as **honorary Godhead**.
- b. Clearly, the **record shows** that the deity of Jesus Christ is taught throughout the pages of Scripture and has never been otherwise conceived by God Himself, His prophets, His disciples, the early Church Fathers...and neither should we.

Application: Since the Biblical record is so clear and convincing on the point of the Divinity of Christ the only question remaining is:

- a. What are the implications of the Divinity of Christ for you personally?

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How did the belief that Jesus Christ is fully God and fully man develop? Was this a delusion foisted upon Christianity by Constantine as the DC asserts? How do we disprove the claims of the DaVinci Code?

I. We need to show that Christ (Messiah) is represented in the OT as being Divine.

- a. The New Testament sheds light on the _____ of Messiah which is quite different from the understanding of the Jews of Jesus' day.
 1. He came not as a military or political savior but for the purpose of paying the _____ of the world. Isa 53:11
 2. The reign of the Messianic king would be righteous, perpetual, and _____. Isa 9:7; Ps 2:1-10 Dan 7:27
 3. He would be a Righteous Sufferer. His sufferings are declared to have an expiatory and _____ character. Ps 22; Isa 53:4-5
 4. Conclusion: _____ other than a Divine Messiah would be able to fulfill this mission.

II. We need to show That Jesus was Messiah (Savior)

- a. _____ Himself speaking to Isaiah 43:11; Titus 2:13
- b. The _____ speaking to Mary. Luke 1:31,35
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IV. His Disciples Acknowledged His Divinity

- a. Called the Christ by _____ and Andrew. Matt 16:16, John 1:41
- b. Called God by _____ John 20:28
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- d. He is the object of _____ which belongs only to God
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- f. He declares _____ with the Father
- g. God is not _____, and cannot promise more or do more than Christ is said to be, to promise, and to do.

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- b. Jesus' claims and ministry are _____ by the resurrection. If Jesus had misrepresented himself, God would have been bound by His Holy character to send Him to hell not resurrect him.
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VII. The Church fathers Between 33AD and 325 AD Acknowledged His Divinity.

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VIII. The Council of Nicaea

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- b. The dogmas (_____) of doctrines formulated in this era were the result of intense thought and searching the Bible and the writings of the Fathers in order to properly interpret the meaning of the Scripture.
- c. Various teachers began to emerge and their teaching was not always congruent with the _____ position.
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