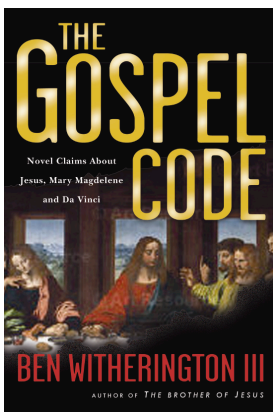


At A Glance

*The Gospel Code:*  
*Novel Claims About Jesus, Mary Magdalene and Da Vinci*  
By Ben Witherington III

Dan Brown's international bestseller *The Da Vinci Code* has raised many questions in the minds of readers. Ben Witherington III, a New Testament scholar, exposes the following errors in the claims of *The Da Vinci Code*:

- #1. The canonical Gospels are not the earliest Gospels, but rather the Gnostic Gospels are the earliest and unaltered Gospels.
- #2. Jesus was simply a man or great prophet until he was divinized at the Council of Nicaea.
- #3. Constantine was the bad guy who suppressed the earlier Gospels and imposes the canonical Gospels and the doctrine of divinity of Christ on the church.
- #4. Jesus was married to Mary Magdalene.
- #5. Jesus must have been married since he was an early Jew.
- #6. The Dead Sea Scrolls along with the Nag Hammadi documents are the earliest Christian records.



*“There really is nothing very new about the religious agendas underlying The Da Vinci Code. It is simply a bad amalgam of old paganism and, strangely enough, old Gnosticism brought back to life by a masterful storyteller. It can be quite entertaining but also misleading. We need to treat this book as what it really is—not historical fiction but almost entirely fiction, at least when it comes to its assumptions and assertions about Jesus, Mary Magdalene and early Christianity. As beguiling as the thrill of the chase is, it can’t hold a candle to the thrill of finding the truth about things that have shaped the very contours of history.”*

—Ben Witherington III

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