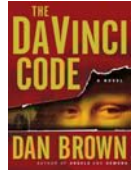


Preacher's Pen points

The Man Behind the Book



I hope you're making plans to hear both of Don Bassett's lectures on Dan Brown's "The Da Vinci Code". But perhaps it might be helpful to know a little more about the author and his viewpoints in anticipation of Don's lectures this weekend.

A Recent Speech

Recently Brown was invited by New Hampshire Public Radio to speak as a part of their "Writers on a New England Stage" series. Though Brown acknowledges that he was raised in the Episcopalian church, he now admits that he is no longer affiliated with this religious group. Instead he simply describes himself "as a work in progress". It appears however that his "progress" is more in the direction of unbelief than Biblical faith.

Brown on "The Sacred Feminine"

During his speech Brown related how his book had received an unexpected response from many Catholic nuns: *"For them the idea of the lost sacred feminine has struck a nerve—the idea that women have been marginalized by religion. Several nuns have told me that reading this novel has given them strength to speak out on a forbidden topic—being that nuns pledge their entire lives to the church, figuratively marry themselves to Jesus, dedicate all their energies to their faith, and yet their church declares them unfit to be priests simply because they are women. How can this be? In my mind there really is no fair answer. You can't simply respond, "Because that's the way the early church worked." By that argument we should still be burning witches and claiming that the sun revolves around the earth. Religion is a work in progress. We learn from its mistakes; we evolve and mature. And exactly that is what*

keeps religion relevant and exciting."

Later in the speech Brown came back to this topic: *"Prior to 2000 years ago we lived in a world of gods and goddesses. Today we live in a world solely of gods. Women in most cultures have been stripped of their spiritual power. Our world today is based on out-dated male philosophies of absolutism and this kind of black-and-white thinking has a long history of violence and bloodshed which continues to this day."*

The Bible on "The Sacred Feminine"

The NT church came into being in a world of "gods and goddesses" alright enough; but the Holy Spirit revealed, *"For even if there are so-called gods whether in heaven or on earth, as indeed there are many gods and many lords, yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom are all things, and we exist for Him; and one Lord, Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we exist through Him" (1 Cor. 8:4-5).* And as for the idea that women should exercise leadership in the church's assemblies they were equally clear, *"But I do not allow a woman to teach or exercise authority over a man, but to remain quiet." (1 Tim. 2:8).*

The truth is, Jesus and His apostles did not believe in any female deity. And, though acknowledging the great influence of women in their divinely-assigned role, they firmly upheld the principles of headship God had given from the beginning (1 Cor. 11:3). On these points they too were absolutists. Their teaching needed no evolution, because it came from the perfect Creator. In fact, it is this that makes it "relevant and exciting".

—Johnny Felker (www.truthchasers.com)