

Can a university be distinctively Baptist and academically excellent? Yes_gregory_92203

October 14, 2003

Posted: 9/19/03

Can a university be distinctively Baptist and academically excellent? —Yes

By Joel Gregory

As a double graduate of Baylor University, I see my alma mater as standing at a crossroads. It is looking both ways at an intersection and will have to make a decision. That decision superficially appears to be about debt, football, a disgruntled faculty or factious regents. To limit the historic decision confronting the school to those issues trivializes its impact on 158 years of Baylor history. The controversy transcends the disparate issues raised by those with a bushel basket of beefs about the Bears.

The decision before Baylor drills down deep into its reason for existence, its very soul. Why is Baylor here, and what is it for?

Can a University be distinctively Baptist and academically excellent? No_prichard_92203

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Can a University be distinctively Baptist and academically excellent? âNo

By Ella Prichard

The lists of "top universities in America" include the great public research universities; once-Christian universities, such as Yale, Harvard, Princeton; a few private institutions founded as secular universities after the German model, such as Stanford and Johns Hopkins; and a handful of elite Catholic universities.

As a student at Baylor University from 1959 to 1963, I dreamed of the day when Baylor would become a "Baptist Harvard." Later, I came to realize the term was an oxymoron; a university can't be Baptist and Harvard at the same time. My attention turned to Notre Dame, a national Catholic university; and I began to ponder the concept of a "Baptist Notre Dame." But Notre Dame and her sister institutions are marked by openness and freedom of inquiry, very different from top evangelical colleges, such as Wheaton and Calvin. And both those models, Catholic and Calvinist, are marked by an authoritarianism foreign to Baptist tradition.



**Baylor's
quest:**

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Three views on Baylor's quest_92203

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Three views on Baylor's quest

The Baptist Standard asked three Texas Baptists to write from differing perspectives on one of the questions at the heart of the

**current debate over the future of Baylor
University:**

**Can a university be distinctively
Baptist
& academically excellent?**