

**Not So Fast!**  
**A Straight Forward look at Brotherhood Schools**  
**Galatians 2:14**  
**By Russell Earl**

Thesis: I want to show the importance of knowing what some of our brotherhood schools are doing.

Intro: 1. Think of a “brotherhood” school. Any school, what do you picture?  
2. Biblically sound members of the church teaching classes?  
3. A strict following of God’s Word?

I. What we expect from our brotherhood schools.

1. Sound teaching from instructors
  - a. Instructors who have answered questions concerning their Biblical views
  - b. Some schools do not require such
  - c. We expect instructors to be members of the Lord’s church.
2. Instilling the importance of selfless praise and worship to God
3. The ability to know our children are learning the truth about Marriage, Divorce and other important topics.
4. We expect our schools to make wise decisions with their money.
5. A school that would teach the proper role of women in the church.

II. What we actually get from some our “brotherhood” schools.

A. Oklahoma Christian

1. Former students and Alumni have stated that some instructors were not members of the church.
2. This year they will host the “McGaw Lecture” with N.T. Wright, Anglican Bishop and professor at St. Andrews in Scotland.
  - a. Another local “Bible School” doesn’t even ask it’s teachers to answer or fill out a Q&A. For some brethren, this is ok, but should it be? **1 John 4:1**
3. Other schools that are doing or have done these types of things include:  
Heritage Christian University, Harding school of theology in Memphis, Freed Hardeman University & Lipscomb University.

**4. Matthew 15:9**

B. Harding, Oklahoma Christian & Freed Hardeman

1. All these schools have singing groups or choirs that hold concerts both on and off campus. Is this instilling the proper ideas concerning praise to God?
  - a. This summer a singing group from OC appeared at a youth event in Bartlesville.
  - b. We were invited, would you go?
  - c. **Matthew 15:8**
    1. **Sincere? Maybe, but sincerely wrong.**

C. Sunset School of Preaching

1. Tommy J. Hicks (A graduate of SSP) has written a 5 page article about the teaching of marriage, divorce & remarriage at SSP and mentions some of their other changing

views.

## 2. **Matthew 19:9**

### D. Freed Hardeman University

1. This university has brought in secular speakers since the 80's. The "rumored" costs have been around \$100,000 for such speakers. Bill Cosby was scheduled this year, but he has since be canceled.
  - a. Current cost for attending FHU –  
4 years \$116,632 (\$29,158/yr if living on campus)
2. You can find a list of their speakers on their website.

### E. Lipscomb University

1. This is the school that encouraged the young lady at Franklin, TN to do an internship. The school actually called on her behalf, saying they had someone in the ministry who needed to do an internship.

## 2. **1 Timothy 2:11-12**

### III. Dangerous Trends & our options

#### A. Dangerous Trends from our own brethren

1. Assuming a school is sound because its associated with the church of Christ.
2. Little or no research about the instructors and the school itself.
3. Overlooking or ignoring remarks about unsound teachings or unsound teachers at the school.
4. Assuming a school is sound because it was years before or when you attended the school.

#### B. Our options

1. The brotherhood didn't always have schools, thus they are not essential for members, future leaders of the church or preachers.
  - a. (Schools can be an aide, but are not essential)
2. We must not think degrees from such schools are a necessity in life.
  - a. Some of our own brethren have helped create this belief by requiring this of those who labor with the congregation
3. If a person is seeking to grow in knowledge from a school (there are other ways), one may consider a smaller, lesser known school or institution; that has been found to be sound.
4. Things you can do when looking into a school or university.
  - a) Have questions prepared for the director.
  - b) Ask to audit a few classes.
  - c) Visit with the instructors.
  - d) Visit with current and past students.

### Application & Conclusion:

1. We must be aware of such matters and investigate before we decided where we or our children should or if they should at all.
2. There are options for those who want to grow in the Biblical matters. Most "preaching schools" will allow someone to attend even if they do not intend on being a full time preacher.

a. Schools like the Online Academy of Biblical Studies allow people to learn with very minimal cost and you do not have to move or raise funds.

### 3. Full Invitation