

**NOTE:** The elders of the church in Lenoir City, TN, wrote the following letter, with the T and F questions attached. Their letter and questions were completely ignored.

**Church of Christ** phone: (865) 986-5698

PO Box 292 Lenoir City, Tennessee 37771

August 28, 2005

Faculty  
Memphis School of Preaching  
3950 Forest Hill Irene Road  
Memphis, TN 38125-2560

Dear brethren:

This particular church has had very strong ties to *Memphis School of Preaching*. We have financially supported the work in some fashion for some time. As a matter of fact, this congregation has enjoyed association with the late Roy J. Hearn and Garland Elkins even before *Memphis School of Preaching* came into existence. It was about 7 years ago that Curtis Cates preached in a gospel meeting for us and we will always appreciate his great work during that meeting.

We are currently supporting Art Wilson in the School. Art is a tremendous young man and will make a truly outstanding gospel preacher. Without a doubt, you brethren have had a tremendous influence for good upon his life in the instruction that he has received and we are most appreciative for such.

As we all realize, we are facing a very serious issue concerning the situation that has developed with Bert Thompson, *Apologetics Press* and *The Gospel Journal*. The case being that brother Cates serves on *TGJ* board and also directs *Memphis School of Preaching* we would be most appreciative if all of the faculty would complete and return this survey that we have prepared. We have taken great care to make these *true* and *false* statements as precise as we possibly can. Also, please be assured that we are not assuming any answers that you may give and are willing for you to answer for yourselves.

You may distribute this letter and survey without any alteration to whomever you may desire.

Yours for the Cause,

The Elders of Lenoir City Church of Christ

## Survey To Memphis School Of Preaching From Lenoir City Church of Christ

1. T F The Biblical Doctrine of Fellowship is not a crucial component of the New Testament pattern.
2. T F The concept of Biblical Fellowship **does not** deal with the aspect of joint participation.
3. T F One can endorse a particular organization and consistently, at the same time, refuse to endorse the individual who directs such.
4. T F One can claim **not** to endorse the individual who directs a particular organization and consistently, at the same time, endorse said organization.
5. T F God **does not** join individuals in marriage when they deliberately enter into a particular marriage without the intent to remain in such a union.
6. T F Those who teach this “mental reservation” doctrine regarding marriage **do not** teach that which will condemn the souls of accountable men.
7. T F Those who teach this “mental reservation” doctrine regarding marriage **do not** teach a doctrine which will condemn the souls of accountable women.
8. T F The doctrine of the reaffirmation of elders is a doctrine that is in harmony with the New Testament pattern.
9. T F The practice of the reaffirmation of elders is a practice that is in harmony with the New Testament pattern.
10. T F Dave Miller **does not** teach a doctrine relating to Marriage, Divorce, and Remarriage that will cause individuals to be lost in sin.
11. T F Dave Miller **does not** teach a doctrine that will cause individuals to be lost when he advocates the reaffirmation of elders.
12. T F Dave Miller has **publicly** repented of **publicly** teaching his doctrine on MDR as noted above.
13. T F Dave Miller has **publicly** repented of **publicly** teaching his doctrine on the reaffirmation of elders as noted above.

14. T F Dave Miller **should not** be removed from his work with **Apologetics Press**.
15. T F Faithful brethren **cannot scripturally** support **Apologetics Press** as long as an impenitent Dave Miller is on its staff in any capacity.
16. T F Faithful brethren **cannot logically** support **Apologetics Press** as long as an impenitent Dave Miller is on its staff in any capacity.
17. T F Faithful brethren **cannot consistently** support **Apologetics Press** as long as an impenitent Dave Miller is on its staff in any capacity.
18. T F Bert Thompson **was not** guilty of a sin that brought public reproach upon the Lord's church.
19. T F We **do not** have a divine obligation to forgive penitent brethren when they confess their sins.
20. T F When a fallen brother confesses his sin of alcoholism before the church he **is not** under divine obligation to produce fruits of repentance.
21. T F One can know that a brother is no longer involved in alcoholism solely upon the basis of his confession of that sin.
22. T F There are **no** consequences that one must face when one confesses and is forgiven of the sin of alcoholism.
23. T F One can know that a brother is no longer a pedophile solely upon the basis of his confession of sin.
24. T F There are **no** consequences that one must face when God forgives that one of the sin of pedophilia.
25. T F Dub McClish **sinned** in his writing of the summation of the Bert Thompson scandal.
26. T F Frank Chesser **did not sin** in his written response to Dub McClish.
27. T F Dave Watson **sinned** in his written response to Frank Chesser.
28. T F Those who call upon Bert Thompson to produce fruits of repentance are guilty of sin.
29. T F Those who refuse fellowship to Dave Miller because of his teaching

on the reaffirmation of elders are guilty of sin.

30. T F Those who refuse fellowship to Dave Miller because of his teaching on MDR are guilty of sin.
31. T F Michael Hatcher **lied** when, in his written apology to Dub McClish, Dave Watson, and others, he stated that he had been given false information regarding Dub McClish's reputation.
32. T F Michael Hatcher **lied** in his written apology by indicating he had been given false information that if Dub remained as editor such would destroy ***The Gospel Journal***.
33. T F Michael Hatcher **lied** in his written apology when he stated that it now appears that there has been a concerted effort to destroy the reputation of Dub McClish.
34. T F The motive of **TGJ** board for writing the statement of 07/20/05, that was read by Michael Hatcher before the **TGJ** board, and to Dub McClish and Dave Watson was a motive authorized by the New Testament.
35. T F Michael Hatcher **told the truth** when he wrote the following to **TGJ** board in his email resigning from said board:

***The "spin" that the board has put on this is just that-"spin." The fact is everyone knows that it is also. While we are stating publicly that there had not been a vote taken (there had not), we all knew that basically there would need to be a change regarding the editor and associate editor. the differing terms used ("fired," "dismissed," "accepted their resignation") all boil down to the same thing, and brethren know that.***

36. T F Michael Hatcher **told the truth** when he wrote the following to **TGJ** board in his email resigning from said board:

***Dub (and David) were placed in a position in which they were forced to resign (if you don't believe that, ask either one of them). While our spin is fine technically true, everyone else realizes the situation also. (This is especially true when Brian Brazwell's understanding of what Barry Grider said to him and conveyed to Dub was the end result-that Dub is no longer with the paper.)***

37. T F Tommy Hicks **told the truth** when in an email he wrote the following to Kent Bailey:

***You did not use the word “fired,” but you used “dismissed” which, to me, implies the same. Neither Dub nor David was “fired.” Furthermore, neither was asked to “resign.” By their own volition, both did resign. I cannot speak as to how Dub and David perceived their situation relative to TGJ board, but if anyone says, “They saw the handwriting on the wall and resigned,” I can assure you that TGJ board had done no “writing on the wall.” No vote was ever taken, therefore, no decision was ever made, by the TGJ board to “fire” them or to ask them for their resignations.***

38. T F If the following statement that was written by **TGJ** board about and to Dub McClish and Dave Watson, was written about me by the Director of **MSOP** and /or the elders of the Forest Hill Church of Christ I would not be caused by the message of said statement to and about me to consider resigning my work with **MSOP**.

***The board deeply appreciates each of you and the time, effort, and interest in the paper which you have demonstrated. The recent events that have occurred as a result of the correspondence relating to Burt (sic) Thompson and the two email messages from Dave Watson have created a situation which has given the board the impression that the continued existence of The Gospel Journal is in jeopardy. The board has thoroughly discussed the situation and has unanimously determined that a change in the editorial staff may be necessary. Before making a final decision we would like to hear any comments that either of you desires (sic) to make. It is not our intention to turn the meeting into a question and answer session. After the board has heard your comments, we will meet in a closed session and as soon as possible return and let you know our decision. If you would like to take a few minutes to consolidate your thoughts, please let us know at this time before we proceed. I will be the only spokesman for the board during this portion of the meeting.***

39. T F Joseph Meador **told the truth** about Dub McClish and those who believe as he (Dub) does when he wrote the following to Michael Hatcher, which Hatcher quoted in his resignation letter to **TGJ** board:

***Brother Meador mentions in his email that we are dealing with “a few who are in a small, but no less toxic, loyalty circle...a small negative faction, who if they gain control, will only rupture fellowship in the church even more than they already have.” Since my elders here at Bellview are individuals who disagreed with our decision and expressed that disagreement to me, I have no alternative to understand that brother Meador has placed them in that class of “toxic, loyalty circle...negative faction.***