

Ouachita Baptist University

## Scholarly Commons @ Ouachita

---

Honors Theses

Carl Goodson Honors Program

---

1971

### A Comparison of the Ministerial Students and Non-ministerial Students on the Ouachita Baptist University Campus

Larry Latham

*Ouachita Baptist University*

Follow this and additional works at: [https://scholarlycommons.obu.edu/honors\\_theses](https://scholarlycommons.obu.edu/honors_theses)



Part of the [Sociology Commons](#)

---

#### Recommended Citation

Latham, Larry, "A Comparison of the Ministerial Students and Non-ministerial Students on the Ouachita Baptist University Campus" (1971). *Honors Theses*. 381.

[https://scholarlycommons.obu.edu/honors\\_theses/381](https://scholarlycommons.obu.edu/honors_theses/381)

This Thesis is brought to you for free and open access by the Carl Goodson Honors Program at Scholarly Commons @ Ouachita. It has been accepted for inclusion in Honors Theses by an authorized administrator of Scholarly Commons @ Ouachita. For more information, please contact [mortensona@obu.edu](mailto:mortensona@obu.edu).

A Comparison Of  
The Ministerial Students and Non-ministerial Students  
On the Ouachita Baptist University Campus

Presented by  
Larry Latham

May 7, 1971

A Comparison Of  
The Ministerial Students and Non-ministerial Students  
On the Ouachita Baptist University Campus

This is a brief study that was conducted during the current semester for the Special Studies section of the Honors Program. The faculty member who assisted and contributed in this study was Mr. John Halbert of the Sociology Department.

Purpose and Method

The purpose of this endeavor is to determine whether or not significant differences can be found between the backgrounds and opinions of ministerial students and non-ministerial students who attend Ouachita University.

First of all, a survey was devised that would attempt to attain information concerning the backgrounds (family and church) and opinions of the two groups. A copy of the questionnaire used in this survey can be found in Section II of this presentation.

There were 35 ministerial students in the sample, and 121 non-ministerial students. The number of ministerial students on campus is approximately 75.

Findings (From Section III)

Here are a few points of significance that are brought out by the survey: (1) There are no female or black ministerial students within the survey; (2) Thirty-three per cent of the ministers were

married while only 14 per cent of the non-ministers were married; (3) Most ministerial students and non-ministerial students seem to have spent most of their lives in city churches of towns of over 10,000 population; (4) When each person was asked about the approximate income of his parents at the time of his 18th birthday, the non-ministers seemed to have been from families with incomes that were larger than the average ministerial student's.

### Opinions Concerning Characteristic Traits

The last part of the survey dealt with opinions about traits that have been said to be characteristic of ministers. Each section of this part will be evaluated.

#### Baptist Pastors

In this section, most of the non-ministers said that ministers were not open-minded, not up-to-date, and emotional. They did, however, agree with the ministerial students in saying that most Baptist Pastors were sincere, adequately trained, hard-working, informed, highly-motivated, satisfied, patient, effective preachers, and evangelistic. Both groups of the sample seemed to be in agreement in ranking their opinions.

#### All Pastors in General

Here the non-ministers seemed to change their views to a certain degree. They disagreed with the ministerial students by saying that pastors in general are not open-minded, not up-to-date, not boastful, and are satisfied, effective preachers, and

are evangelistic. The ministerial students seemed to feel that most pastors in general were boastful, and did not have effective or evangelistic preaching.

#### Myself

Here the responses seemed to be about the same. Most ministerial students and non-ministerial students said that they were open-minded, emotional, up-to-date, sincere, adequately educated, not boastful, were hard-working, informed, highly-motivated, and patient.

Perhaps it could be pointed out here that of all the questions on the questionnaire, a large percentage of the sample would complete the section on "myself" while leaving other sections uncompleted.

#### Conclusion

This survey could serve to stress the fact that there are no basic differences between ministers and non-ministers. Only in a few restrictive areas do there seem to be a few ethnocentric, biased answers. When this study began, it was expected that harsh differences would be pointed out between the two groups. However, it can now be stated that: according to the evidence submitted within this survey, there are no course or rigid differences between ministerial students and non-ministerial students on the Ouachita Baptist University campus.

Special Studies Project

Please complete the following and return to Larry Latham, Ouachita Baptist University Box 605.

1. Are you a ministerial student currently receiving the ministerial discount? Yes No
2. Age \_\_\_ Sex \_\_\_ Race \_\_\_\_\_ Classification \_\_\_\_\_

3. Marital status:  
 (check one)  
 Single  Other  
 married If married or 'other':  
 Number of children \_\_\_\_\_

4. Denominational affiliation:  
 Southern Baptist  Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

5. For each period of your life shown below, indicate the type and size of church which you attended most during that period:

Use these letters to indicate type of church for each period below

- A - Open country or village church
- B - Town (500-2,499 pop.) church
- C - Church in city of 2,500-9,999 pop.
- D - Suburban church in city of 10,000 pop. or more
- E - Church in downtown business district of city with 10,000 or more pop.
- F - Neighborhood church in city of 10,000 pop. or more

<u>Period of your life</u>	<u>Type of church</u> (see above)	<u>Approximate membership</u>	<u>Did Not Attend</u>
Ages 9-12	_____	_____	OR ... ( )
Ages 13-16	_____	_____	OR ... ( )
Ages 17-20	_____	_____	OR ... ( )
Ages 21-24	_____	_____	OR ... ( )
Ages 25-29	_____	_____	OR ... ( )
Ages 30-present	_____	_____	OR ... ( )

6. To the best of your knowledge, what was the approximate total income of your family at the time you were 18 years old?

- Under \$3,000 annually
- \$3,000 - \$5,999 annually
- \$6,000 - \$9,999 annually
- \$10,000 - \$15,000 annually
- Over \$15,000 annually

7. What were the ages of your parents at the time of your birth?  
 Father \_\_\_\_\_ Mother \_\_\_\_\_

8. How many brothers and sisters do you have ?

	Male	Female
Older	_____	_____
Younger	_____	_____

9. What is the status of your family now?

(specify)

- Mother and Father are married and living
- Mother and Father are divorced
- Mother and Father are separated
- Mother or Father is deceased
- Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

10. What was your father's occupation?

(check most appropriate)

- Professional worker
- Farmer or farm manager
- Manager, official, or proprietor, except of a farm
- Clerical worker
- Sales worker
- Craftsman, foreman, or similar worker
- Operative of machinery
- Private household worker
- Service worker, except private household
- Farm laborer or foreman
- Laborer, except farm or mine
- Student
- Retired
- Unemployed
- Other

IF YOU ARE A MINISTER, COMPLETE THESE QUESTIONS:

11. What was your approximate age at the time of your conversion? \_\_\_\_\_

12. What were your major influences to enter the ministry?

(briefly describe)

---

---

---

---

Using this scale, please express your opinion about each trait for the people below:

Scale: 1 ---- very accurate description  
2 ---- accurate description  
3 ---- not accurate description  
4 ---- very bad description

Baptist Pastors:

open-minded \_\_\_ emotional \_\_\_ up-to-date \_\_\_ sincere \_\_\_  
adequately trained \_\_\_ boastful \_\_\_ Hard-working \_\_\_  
informed \_\_\_ Highly-motivated \_\_\_ satisfied \_\_\_ adequate salary \_\_\_  
patient \_\_\_ effective preaching \_\_\_ over-ambitious \_\_\_  
evangelistic \_\_\_

All Pastors in general:

open-minded \_\_\_ emotional \_\_\_ up-to-date \_\_\_ sincere \_\_\_  
adequately trained \_\_\_ boastful \_\_\_ hard-working \_\_\_ informed \_\_\_  
highly-motivated \_\_\_ satisfied \_\_\_ adequate salaries \_\_\_ patient \_\_\_  
effective preaching \_\_\_ over-ambitious \_\_\_ evangelistic \_\_\_

Myself:

open-minded \_\_\_ emotional \_\_\_ up-to-date \_\_\_ sincere \_\_\_  
adequate education \_\_\_ boastful \_\_\_ hard-working \_\_\_ informed \_\_\_  
highly-motivated \_\_\_ satisfied \_\_\_ over-ambitious \_\_\_ patient \_\_\_

(If you are a minister, complete these:)

effective preaching \_\_\_ evangelistic \_\_\_ adequate salary \_\_\_

High School Teachers:

open-minded \_\_\_ emotional \_\_\_ up-to-date \_\_\_ sincere \_\_\_  
adequately trained \_\_\_ boastful \_\_\_ hard-working \_\_\_ informed \_\_\_  
highly-motivated \_\_\_ satisfied \_\_\_ over-ambitious \_\_\_ patient \_\_\_



FINDINGS:

1. Ministerial Students in the Sample:	35
Non-Ministers in the Sample:	<u>121</u>
TOTAL	156

2. <u>Age:</u>	Ministers		Non-Ministers	
	age	number	age	number
	18	0	18	20
	19	5	19	41
	20	10	20	29
	21	6	21	11
	22	4	22	10
	23	3	23	3
	24	2	24	4
	25	1	25	2
	26	2	26	1
	27	0	27	0
	28	1	28	0
	37	1		

<u>Sex:</u>	Ministers		Non-Ministers	
	male	female	male	female
	35	0	71	50

<u>Race:</u>	Ministers		Non-Ministers	
	white	black	white	black
	35	0	107	14

<u>Classification:</u>	Ministers		Non-Ministers	
	Freshmen		Freshmen	
	Sophomores		Sophomores	
	Juniors		Juniors	
	Seniors		Seniors	

3. <u>Marital Status:</u>	Ministers		Non-Ministers	
	Married	12	Married	19
	Single	23	Single	108
	Other	0	Other	2

4. <u>Denominational Affiliation:</u>	Ministers		Non-Ministers	
	Southern Baptists		Southern Baptists	
	35		78	
	Other		Other	
	0		43	

5. The type of church that each individual spent most of his life in:

Ministers:	Non-Ministers:
A. Open country or village church: <u>5</u>	Open country or village church: <u>19</u>
B. Town (500-2,499 pop.) church: <u>5</u>	Town (500-2,499 pop.) church: <u>22</u>
C. Church in city of 2,500-9,999 pop.: <u>3</u>	Church in city of 2,500-9,999 pop.: <u>21</u>
D. Suburban church in city of 10,000 pop. or more: <u>6</u>	Suburban church in city of 10,000 pop. or more: <u>15</u>
E. Church in downtown business district of city with 10,000 or more pop.: <u>6</u>	Church in downtown business district of city with 10,000 or more pop.: <u>13</u>
F. Neighborhood church in city of 10,000 pop. or more: <u>10</u>	Neighborhood church in city of 10,000 pop. or more: <u>34</u>

6. Income: (Approximate total income of their parents at their 18th birthday.)

Ministers:	Non-Ministers:
Under \$3,000 annually <u>1</u>	Under \$3,000 annually <u>5</u>
\$3,000 - \$5,999 annually <u>5</u>	\$3,000 - \$5,999 annually <u>15</u>
\$6,000 - \$9,999 annually <u>17</u>	\$6,000 - \$9,999 annually <u>35</u>
\$10,000 - \$15,000 annually <u>8</u>	\$10,000 - \$15,000 annually <u>42</u>
Over \$15,000 annually <u>4</u>	Over \$15,000 annually <u>21</u>

7. The ages of their parents at the time of their birth:

Ministers:			Non-Ministers:		
Ages:	Numbers:		Ages:	Numbers:	
	Father	Mother		Father	Mother
Under 19	0	4	Under 19	1	12
20 - 25	12	10	20 - 25	36	38
26 - 30	8	5	26 - 30	35	35
31 - 35	5	5	31 - 35	23	17
36 - 40	3	4	36 - 40	15	13
41 - 45	2	2	41 - 45	4	3
46 - 50	0	0	46 - 50	2	0
51 - Over	1	0	51 & Over	2	0

8. Number of sample who do not have any brothers or sisters:

Ministers:	Non-Ministers:
1	

9. Status of their families at this time:

Ministers:	Non-Ministers:
Mother and Father are married and living: <u>30</u>	Mother and Father are married and living: <u>107</u>
Mother and Father are divorced: <u>2</u>	Mother and Father are divorced: <u>5</u>
Mother and Father are separated: <u>0</u>	Mother and Father are separated: <u>0</u>
Mother or Father is deceased: <u>2</u>	Mother or Father is deceased: <u>12</u>
Other: <u>0</u>	Other: <u>0</u>

10. Father's Occupations

<u>Ministers:</u>	<u>Non-Ministers:</u>	<u>Occupations:</u>
8	30	Professional worker
3	7	Farmer or farm manager
5	21	Manager, official, or proprietor, except of a farm
1	6	Clerical worker
2	12	Sales worker
7	15	Craftsman, foreman, or similar worker
0	5	Operative of machinery
0	0	Private household worker
0	2	Service worker, except private household
0	1	Farm laborer or foreman
2	10	Laborer, except farm or mine
0	0	Student
3	5	Retired
0	0	Unemployed
3	13	Other

11. Ministers at age of conversion:

<u>Age:</u>	<u>Number of Ministers:</u>
6	2
7	1
8	1
9	7
10	0
11	4
12	2
13	1
14	2
15	1
16	1
17	6
18	3
21	4

12. Major influences to enter the ministry:

A list of the various answers:

- |                       |                     |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Lord's Will           | Pastoral counseling |
| Called by God         | Christian home      |
| Called by Holy Spirit | Prayer              |
| Bible                 | Individual Desire   |

OPINIONS ABOUT THE TRAITS:

Scale:  
 1 ---- very accurate description  
 2 ---- accurate description  
 3 ---- not accurate description  
 4 ---- very bad description

Baptist Pastors:

open-minded

Response:	Ministers	Non-Ministers
1.	2	10
2.	16	35
3.	14	48
4.	4	23

emotional

Response:	Ministers	Non-Ministers
1.	4	32
2.	18	48
3.	14	31
4.	0	9

up-to-date

Response:	Ministers	Non-Ministers
1.	2	3
2.	13	46
3.	19	46
4.	2	20

sincere

Response:	Ministers	Non-Ministers
1.	10	34
2.	25	55
3.	0	20
4.	1	8

adequately trained

Response:	Ministers	Non-Ministers
1.	4	21
2.	16	55
3.	10	29
4.	4	8

boastful

Response:	Ministers	non-Ministers
1.	3	13
2.	8	29
3.	12	40
4.	11	32

## (Baptist Pastors: Continued)

hard-working			
Responses:	Ministers		Non-Ministers
1.	5		27
2.	21		68
3.	6		17
4.	2		1
informed			
Responses:	Ministers		Non-Ministers
1.	4		17
2.	16		59
3.	11		29
4.	2		9
highly-motivated			
Responses:	Ministers		Non-Ministers
1.	9		29
2.	15		59
3.	8		23
4.	2		3
satisfied			
Response:	Ministers		Non-Ministers
1.	7		13
2.	18		52
3.	7		33
4.	2		12
adequate salary			
Responses:	Ministers		Non-Ministers
1.	0		10
2.	7		30
3.	16		38
4.	11		32
patient			
Responses:	Ministers		Non-Ministers
1.	2		13
2.	24		66
3.	8		18
4.	0		13

## (Baptist Pastors: Continued)

## effective preaching

## Response:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

## Ministers

- 6
- 15
- 13
- 0

## Non-Ministers

- 7
- 59
- 35
- 9

## over-ambitious

## Response:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

## Ministers

- 1
- 8
- 19
- 6

## Non-Ministers

- 8
- 29
- 52
- 23

## evangelistic

## Response:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

## Ministers

- 3
- 10
- 8
- 9

## Non-Ministers

- 23
- 54
- 26
- 7

The opinions of ministerial students compared to non-ministers.

All Pastors in General:

		Ministers	Non-Ministers
open-minded	1.	2	3
	2.	15	43
	3.	13	47
	4.	4	11
emotional	1.	2	19
	2.	22	57
	3.	8	23
	4.	2	7
up-to-date	1.	2	4
	2.	17	47
	3.	13	42
	4.	2	10
sincere	1.	6	19
	2.	16	39
	3.	9	21
	4.	3	4
adequately trained	1.	2	9
	2.	17	67
	3.	14	20
	4.	1	8
boastful	1.	4	7
	2.	15	32
	3.	12	47
	4.	4	19
hard-working	1.	3	19
	2.	18	66
	3.	11	16
	4.	2	4
informed	1.	3	11
	2.	17	64
	3.	12	19
	4.	1	7



	Ministers	Non-Ministers
highly-motivated		
1.	3	20
2.	20	59
3.	7	20
4.	4	4
satisfied		
1.	6	10
2.	14	54
3.	12	28
4.	2	11
adequate salary		
1.	7	4
2.	8	33
3.	19	42
4.	6	25
patient		
1.	4	9
2.	20	70
3.	8	13
4.	2	9
effective preaching		
1.	1	5
2.	10	56
3.	20	37
4.	3	10
over-ambitious		
1.	2	6
2.	8	33
3.	16	52
4.	8	12
evangelistic		
1.	1	12
2.	11	57
3.	16	29
4.	6	6

Myself:

	Ministers	Non-Ministers
open-minded		
1+	7	41
2.	23	68
3.	3	5
4.	0	2
emotional		
1.	4	27
2.	18	55
3.	10	30
4.	1	3
up-to-date		
1.	3	33
2.	21	63
3.	7	15
4.	0	3
sincere		
1.	12	30
2.	19	67
3.	2	14
4.	0	2
adequate education		
1.	4	13
2.	10	59
3.	16	39
4.	3	9
boastful		
1.	0	8
2.	6	17
3.	25	64
4.	4	27
hard-working		
1+	1	15
2.	20	66
3.	11	23
4.	1	9

Myself: Continued

informed	Ministers	Non-Ministers
1.	5	10
2.	15	76
3.	11	24
4.	2	1

highly-motivated	Ministers	Non-Ministers
1.	9	19
2.	14	52
3.	9	38
4.	1	6

satisfied	Ministers	Non-Ministers
1.	3	11
2.	8	47
3.	15	35
4.	7	22

over-ambitious	Ministers	Non-Ministers
1.	2	6
2.	7	27
3.	20	57
4.	4	30

patient	Ministers	Non-Ministers
1.	4	12
2.	15	50
3.	10	39
4.	4	12

Ministers only:

effective preaching	Ministers	evangelistic	Non-Ministers
1.	3	1.	6
2.	14	2.	16
3.	10	3.	7
4.	0	4.	0

adequate salary	Ministers
1.	3
2.	11
3.	5
4.	7