

In the first section, all but two of the essays were addressed to Catholic audiences. I would not want to leave the impression that my interest in higher education is exclusively Catholic. For that reason, all of the essays in this section are addressed to Protestant or secular audiences. I have talked at Brandeis University and at the Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati, having honorary degrees from both, but I cannot find a copy of my remarks on those occasions. I do remember speaking about how to be a good Rabbi at the Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati, giving as my justification for doing so that Rabbi Abraham Heschel had given me many pointers on being a good priest.

II
IX

The first essay was addressed to the Council of Protestant Colleges and Universities' meeting in Los Angeles ten years ago. I would not change the message today, for the challenge faced then is no less real today. Looking back, I hope I was not unduly harsh on Dr. Harvey Cox because I have generally enjoyed his writings and learned from them, with the exception of the chapter in question. As I get older, I think we all ought to be conceded a chancy chapter now and then, especially if we are speaking and writing often. The pressure is constant and one tries to have an original good idea now and then, on a variety of subjects.

It is a good thought to remember ^{occasionally} ~~now-and-then~~ that for the first centuries of American higher education, all of the institutions were religious in origin and commitment. This includes the first,

Harvard, as well as Yale, Princeton, and Dartmouth. The Methodists founded all of the following well-known universities: Boston, Duke, Emory, Northwestern, Southern Methodist, Syracuse, Denver, and Southern California.

One might question what happened to the religious commitment over the years. Each institution has its own tale to tell. One thing is certain. Without that original commitment to Christian higher education, the total spectrum of American universities would be poorer today.

The following essay tries to demonstrate that there is still a valid and important role to play for many of these institutions that still call themselves Christian.