

Joan Porter Thomas

Professor Constance L. Diggs

PMN 346 Personal Spiritual Formation (NA)

March 28, 2023

Reflection Article Discipline

The thing that is present to me as I study and meditate on this lecture is the quote “God has called the church to create environment where authentic community can take place”. I have been thinking ever since I become a part of leadership in the church, in what way I can contribute significantly to the growth of people I lead and how I can carry out God’s will, in not only feeding His people with the word but impacting their natural life also. The church is design to meet people’s need, in every aspect of the word. Not just member, but people at large. The Church should be a place where people can uncover their shame and be loved back into acceptance. We should teach them that they “can uncover their shame to God” It should be our main focus to follow the footsteps of Jesus in every area of our life. It should be a safe place for people who are carrying burdens to have an outlet, to let go. They should be taught that God does not judge us for our mistake, if we are willing to repent. He says, “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and purifies us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:9). We should be able to take our brother’s hand and help them along, as (Ephesians 4) charges us to do. It is on our responsibility to help people to turn from their sin. In the Pentecostal churches, the ones that I know of, there is a tendency to treat people harshly, when they have made a mistake. We do not remember how the Bible says we are to restore. The blueprint is in (Ephesians 4).

I Have been fighting this battle in my church community ever since I became a believer, I have been trying to teach those that will listen that it is not our place to judge, (and I use this word carefully, not like they are trying to use the “do not judge” in today’s society to justify sin.) try and sentence people out of the church, because they have made a mistake. Our duty is to nurture them. The

misguided there are usually the older ones, the foundation members. They think to bully someone is the way to get them to walk right, but all that does is either send the person back into the world or cause them to cover their sins, instead of uncovering it, where they can be forgiven and grow in God. There is definitely a need to have a safe place where unfiltered confession can be made, which will lead to one confessing his sins and not being judge harshly.

Going forward, I will approach the discipline by leading by example. As I bear the name Mother Thomas, I want to show my brethren the love and nurturing only a mother can give. I want to continue teach the word with empathy and let them know that I am a shoulder they can lean on in time of need, that I can lead them to the solid Rock, which is Jesus Christ, the firm foundation.