

The Impacted Theology and Understanding reading The
Art of Theological Reflection and We have this Ministry.

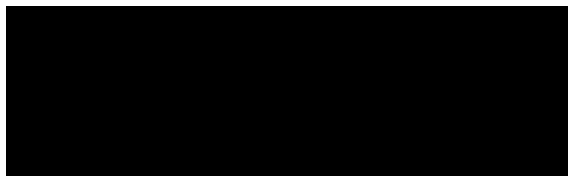
Field Education

Dr. D. Hembree

The Requirement for

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By



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The Art of Theological Reflection will be a book I will read often. Sometimes, in our daily lives, we can get so weighed down by what we are doing that we have a tendency to go through the motions about doing things, and we miss the intentions and go through the motions. O'Connell and De Beer teach us how to use some exercises. How we can do some Theological Reflections: Mastering theological reflections will take practice repeatedly until they take root inside you. Theological Reflection is the experiences we have going through and the wisdom of what we have been passed down about "our religion. Our experience is put with our religious heritage".¹ Our Tradition and Experience come together, and the Theological reflection meets in the middle. Our religious heritage is important because when we meet someone's religion, we can interact with them. Meaning we don't have to put their religion down and think ours is the greatest. Which it is. But we can still be firm and listen. I have a cousin who is a Muslim. Every time he would start to speak about his religion, I would somehow walk away. I have an uncle who is his first cousin who is a Pastor. I always noticed that he would always listen to what he had to say. I now know. My Uncle is practicing Theological reflection. He has also been preaching for many decades. So, Theological Reflection is embedded in him. I believe in order to be a great Pastor, Preacher, Teacher, and leader of the church, one must incorporate This practice. To effectively lead the Church and other members of the Church.

We have this Ministry. Proctor and Taylor. I enjoyed reading this book. It first takes the reader to the Calling of God. Every Pastor had a calling in their life. If not, they would not be Pastors. Every

¹ The Art of Theological Reflection By Patricia O'Connell and John De Beer. Published in 1994, The Crossroad Publishing Company Page viii.

calling is different from each other. Some have the road to Damascus experience, and others are not as dramatic. I guess my calling was not that dramatic. I thought I was walking in my calling when He called me to teach the word. I ran from that call so fast and far until I hit a brick wall and realized what was happening. I guess the Lord has to knock some sense in my head, as my Mother would say. I repent of my sins and ask God to please forgive me. I have been teaching ever since. I guess that was in 2013. God called me again. This time, it was to preach. I was at work minding my own business until my Sister called me and commented on a post I had made on social media. It was my older sister's birthday, I wanted to wish her a happy birthday and thank her for all the beautiful things she had done in my life. I guess my little sister was a little jealous of what I had told her. She called me and said that our oldest sister was not the only sister that I had. I wanted to tell her that she is the only sister, born on October 26. But The Holy Spirit didn't allow me to say that. I told her I was feeling very appreciative at that time, so I was talking affectionately. She responded by saying oh, bye. I said bye. As soon as I hung up the phone, this vision came upon me. I was standing in the pulpit preaching. I was preaching so hard that I was sweating. The dream was like it was repeating itself. After the vision was over, I felt so tired. I then asked the Lord if He wanted me to preach. I waited for confirmation. Two people confirmed it. This time, I didn't run. I talked to my Pastor. I told him I had received the call to preach. We talk for a long time. I told him I wanted to go to seminary before I started to preach. I prayed about what school I wanted to go to. My first thought was ITC in Atlanta, then Eskine University. God led me here to Dickerson-Green Theological Seminary.

After reading *We Have This Ministry*, I understand why being a better Preacher/Teacher is essential. Proctor and Taylor talk about how the preacher and the teacher must be versed in

many things for the People of the church. They stated the church members look to the Pastor for practically everything. For example, how to fill out a college application, how to write a resume, how to balance a checkbook, what is needed to apply for a personal or car loan, and how to maintain good credit; they must be educated about the obvious. They are learning about God. The list goes on and on.

The authors mention how they grew up with the Pastor being educated, and the Sunday School and bible study teachers were their teachers in School. I, too, grew up at Friendship Baptist church with all of the Pastors we had during my life, holding a Master's Degree in Theology or divinity. As I mentioned, I am from a Baptist church, and a degree is not necessary to preach in the Baptist. I come for a legacy of pastors who have a master's degree. It is only befitting for me to earn my M.Div. I firmly believe it is essential for a pastor to have seminary training. That is because I grew up in that culture. Sometimes, when I hear a pastor preach who doesn't have seminary training, some of them can be hard to follow. I remember where their heart is; for the most part, they have a heart for God. An informed Pastor would be able to Preach to the congregation about our African heritage and rituals and incorporate the traditions and the bible. This then turns us to be more proud of where we come from instead of making up Africa as the poorest continent there is on Earth. Let the white man tell our story like they have. Instead, it is the wealthiest continent. The white man has taken our culture and made it believe there is nothing good about African culture. But having a well-informed and educated pastor will be about to debunk all of the lies.

An educated Pastor could teach the church about their denominational history. Where did the Baptist come from? There are many types of Baptists. Are they part of a Baptist convention?

When did this denomination go into the U.S.? The Baptist that we are a part of started here in the United States of America. Knowing this type of information can open a church member's mind, which makes them want to know more about their denomination. Instead of having a Pastor who is only familiar with the local church and how long they have been established. I have heard some of the dumbest things about pastors attending seminars. The Professors and the Students are not saved. They don't believe in Jesus Christ—all kinds of craziness. A good pastor could take all of his Education, knowledge, and experience to make theological reflection. What would make a great pastor? He will have a great deal of information to bring to his people. I have noticed for myself that being in seminary doesn't only give me more knowledge of God but also gives me more information about our Black heritage. I can put all of these experiences to make me a good pastor. Everyone has experiences to add to the theological reflections. If one has more experience from education, learning from others will help one become a better pastor. We must do our part to be the best pastors to help our members become great lovers of God. They are showing all humbleness, patience, and love for others. This is what God wants from His Pastors.

After reading both books on serving, I find that using Theology Reflection and We Have This Ministry will make a great Pastor. A Pastor who offends has to be an Intercessor for people; often, it is not for people who are not members of his Church. For example, when we have bible study and the end of bible study. We ask for prayer. I find a lot of the people are not members of the Church. But we must pray for people who can't pray for themselves. This is something we all must do, not only the Pastor. Sometimes, people in the church think the pastor is the only

holy person in the Church. I am aware that the Pastor must have a relationship with God. This is true. I wasn't the kind of person who had to depend on the pastor to pray for me. I had a relationship with God. So I could go to God myself. A good Pastor should give his members the tools to put in them so no one has to depend on him.

People ask the Pastor if he can go by the Hospital and pray for a family member who is dying and hasn't stepped foot in the church, and they don't have a relationship with God. I have seen my Pastor do this for members of his church. I believe that some of the members are just lazy. They think that it is the Pastor's job. Again, if the pastor can empower his people to pray, read, and study God, they too can intercess on others' behalf. Praying on someone else behalf is servicing.

Churches should have outreach ministries to serve the community. For example, our church has several ministries to serve the community. One of our outreach is feeding the community. I was surprised at how many people are food insecure in our community. So when the community comes in, we provide clothing and minister to them. We invite them to worship with us.

Our Men's ministry has an outreach with one of the schools in our community. We provide back-to-school backpacks along with school supplies. Pens, Pencils, Paper. We also offer extra paper and pencils to the school once a month. If the students come to school needing Paper Pencils to be successful, They come to the office and ask for supplies. We also mentor the boys. We help them with schoolwork and personal hygiene; we allow them to talk about anything on their mind. We do that without judgment and give them a safe place to talk. All of this is serving our community with care and love.

Fellowshipping with other saints is essential for many reasons. Three times a year, Our church fellowship with another church. It is with a white church. They came and worshiped with us, and we worship with them. After the services, We break bread. One deacon asked me what you all do on Sunday evening. I knew what he was getting at. A lot of white churches have service on Sunday morning and Sunday evening. I told him It depends on what I have going on. I mentioned to him. We don't have evening church on Sunday if that is what you are asking. We also fellowship with each other within the church. For example, I am the Superintendent of Sunday School. Every three months, the teachers and I fellowship at a restaurant to get to know each other outside the church. One will be surprised about how much we have in common despite the social economics where we live. I have gained several friends fellowshiping with others at my church. I also learned to speak to some people from a distance. Some People gossip and talk about how a person comes to church dressed. I am not a person who has time for that. So, I speak from a distance. Fellowshiping is essential to the body of believers. We all need each other. One can possess the required things that the different needs. For example, I have two cars. The member was going through some hard times. He needed a car to get to work and shopping. I was not driving my second car. I told him. He can use my car until he gets back on his feet. I would not have known this brother was in need if we hadn't fellowship.

To be a great Pastor, one must be trained through Seminary and have experience that God provides. All things work for good for those who love the Lord and according to His purpose.

Pastoral care is critical to being a great Pastor. This training comes with getting your M.Div. These courses will equip a Pastor to help his members of the church. Please bring them to be able to make better decisions. He is a great teacher who allows them to become better Christians and help others in need. Bring their experiences and traditions and mix them. You have mastered The art of Theological reflection.