Liberty University

Reflection Paper on Selected Micro-project Assignment

A Paper Submitted to

Submitted to Dr. James Zabloski,

in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the completion of

Micro-Project II: Historical and Current Practices

DSMN 852 - B01

by

Curtis Boozer

March 7, 2021

For all those in ministry sharing the same problem I am addressing, here is my advice based on what I have learned as I worked on this article critique micro-project. My research helped me understand the underlying causes for why the contemporary American church is struggling to have significant traction with the people of this culture. The information that I read helped me understand how the people of our nation have moved away from a respect for God and His precepts. This move away from God has accelerated within my lifetime and I see how it is leading to individualistic behaviors and mindsets. Those same mindsets are eroding the concepts of morality and individual character. The people we minister need to trust us as we share biblical concepts with them. We cannot assume they will have a common understanding to morality or believe that their character attributes need to align with God's Word.

A ministry that is predominantly based upon pulpit preaching will struggle to be able to engage people in a manner that will help them adopt a different worldview. Ministers will need to support their preaching with individual engagement with congregants to convince them to be following God according to the *Shema* that was presented in Deut 6 and then referred to in Matt 22: 34-40 by Jesus. A process to assist new believers to adopt a lifestyle of devotion will assist them in resisting the pressure of modern culture to elevate themselves into the role of the arbiter of right and wrong, rather than allowing God to set the proper boundaries for their lives.

Personal engagement will be necessary to mentor individuals toward changing their mindsets regarding unity with other believers as well as how to minister to others empowered by the Holy Spirit. As I have engaged with others, I have been surprised by how many people feel that they are unable to hear clearly from God what they should be doing daily.

My prayer is that I can take what I have learned in this micro-project and synthesize it into a clear explanation that will help me lead others back to a lifestyle of devotion to God, unity with brothers and sisters in Christ, and a close empowered relationship with the Holy Spirit.