

This bachelor's thesis examines the core cognitive, affective and conative aspects of stigma surrounding mental illness, particularly in the context of Christian church communities. Drawing on international research, it has been shown that believers with mental illness may face misunderstanding, rejection and spiritualization of symptoms of their mental distress by church community and church authorities. To this date, this issue has received relatively little academic attention (with only a few studies, mostly from Anglo-American settings). The aim of this thesis is therefore to draw the attention of the professional community to the existence of this phenomenon, the possible impact on overall quality of life experience of Christians with mental illness and to outline possible ways of addressing this challenging issue. The research proposal uses grounded theory method to address the phenomenological dimension of this topic.