

**THE MISUSE OF THE SYMBOL AND REPRESENTATIVE FUNCTION OF THE
BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE ON THE BLOOD OF JESUS CHRIST**

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ABSTRACT

The misuse of the symbol and representative function of the biblical perspective on the blood of Jesus Christ in the modern day Pentecostal church prompted this critical response. Focus was on the Pentecostal Protestant Churches in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe who use symbols. The objectives of the research were to find the biblical narrative on the application of the blood of Jesus Christ, the presentational function of the blood of Jesus Christ, the spiritual and social driving factors for misuse and how the blood of Jesus Christ can be truthfully represented. Literature indicated that the undistinguishable boundaries between religion and culture in the African Traditional communities could be a contributing factor. The study was highly qualitative because of its subjectivity and 10 pastors and 10 congregants were used as research subjects using the framework analysis approach to analyze data. Data was collected through in-depth online and face to face interviews. Results indicated that, the blood of Jesus is widely appreciated as part of the Christian faith however, with the belief that it requires aids to enhance its power. For church leaders, it was recommended that teaching should be done consistently and extensively using various methods to emphasize on the sufficiency of the blood of Jesus Christ. It was also recommended for congregants to study the word on their own to avoid misleading teachings and to join cell-groups to learn from others as they grow in the faith. As an institution that trains pastors, Theological College of Zimbabwe (TCZ) could consider addressing the issue of symbols extensively in their Curriculum.

Key Words: Scripture Misinterpretation, Exegesis, Blood of Jesus Christ, Pentecostal Church, African Tradition, Syncretism