

**AN EXAMINATION OF STRATEGIES APPLIED IN CONFRONTING
SYNCRETIC PRACTICES IN SELECTED METHODIST AND PENTECOSTAL
CHURCHES IN ABOGETA DIVISION, MERU COUNTY, KENYA**

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of the study was to establish the Christian strategies that confront syncretic practices in the church, a case of selected mainline Methodist and Pentecostal. This study was based on Functionalism theory by Émile Durkheim and Acculturation Theory. The target population was all the pastors and congregation members in Pentecostal and Methodist churches in Abogeta division. This study utilized a questionnaire to collect data. Reliability of the instrument was tested using Spearman Brown prophesy formula by split half technique. The data collected was coded and entered in the computer for analysis using the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) version 17 for windows. The study established that; the majority (75%) of the respondents was satisfied with the beliefs and practices of the church, (47.3%) of the respondents indicated that some of the church members did visit diviners. The study established that; 19.4% of the respondents were not satisfied spiritually, and could have resulted to syncretic practices, for satisfaction, the preachers had disoriented the gospel to suit their needs, as was revealed by the majority (54.8%) of the respondents, the gospel preached in the churches did not meet the spiritual needs of the church members and that the members of the church did not feel protected by their gospel. Based on the findings of this study, the researcher concludes that; Syncretism was being practiced by some of the Christians in Abogeta division, in the forms of visiting diviners, astrologers and witchdoctors, and preachers preaching the edited versions of gospel. The church leaders should strive to meet the spiritual needs of their members, through nurturing and teachings. This would enable them to withstand the temptations of engaging in syncretism.

