

## **An encounterology Between African Metaphysics and Reformed Faith**

### **Abstract**

**This paper identifies and outlines certain key issues in the discourse on African ontology and metaphysics. The church in Africa, especially in the sub-saharan areas, came into existence as part of the European expansion into Africa, and it still bears the marks of its parentage. It was part of the cultural invasion from Europe which did not have much regard for the dignity of African culture and condemnatory attitude to things African. This in turn led to the despising and debasement of the African. The intolerant and rather authoritarian manner in which this enterprise was carried out left a deeper wound in the African spirit. There was a negation of the African experience, in spite of the undeniable contribution of the church in Africa. This paper will argue that the Reformed tradition in South Africa is a classical example of a church which is not yet free from the combined legacies of missionary and colonial effort as a result it still suffers from “Northern captivity” in spite of the shift in world christianity’s centre gravity from Western Europe to the Global South. The paper proposes Ubuntu philosophy as the guiding principle, for the Protestant church in South Africa to uphold and affirm African cultural identity in order to restore dignity and the wholeness to a deeply wounded African spirit.**

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