

Reed a winner

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 went to Los Angeles in May, Reed shared the stage with stars like Maroon 5, Lil John and Crosby, Stills and Nash. He said that many of the icons in attendance told him how much they enjoyed his song.

"Music is my passion," he said. "I like to keep myself well rounded, but my heart and my passion is gospel music."

Reed has written for several genres while he was working toward his degree in

music business. Those experiences, he believes, will help him get his career off the ground.

"The way gospel music is today, you can't tell gospel music by a certain style anymore because it takes on so many different styles," he said.

Reed's winning song has a hip-hop groove and a pulsating beat that is sure to get radio play on gospel and urban contemporary stations.

Hear Reed's award winning song [online](#) at

No place for men in the black church?

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 percent."

Davis said that in biblical times, there are no examples of women leading households or communities successfully. However, some experts say the black church has a history of oppression. Marcia Riggs, a professor of Christian Ethics at Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, Ga., said the church has yet to overcome its ingrained bias against women.

"Black men who once felt deprived of their status as provider for their families have adopted a compensatory black male chauvinism," she told the Salisbury Post following a speech at Hood Theological Seminary.

In Charlotte, considered by many the buckle of the Bible Belt, some pastors say getting men into church is a problem. Pastor Charles Booker of New Shiloh Baptist Church said he's not sure why black men don't attend.

"I think that they'd rather watch football, go fishing or play golf rather than come to church," he said.

Booker has a unique situation. Because New Shiloh's congregation is rebuilding the church after a fire last year, they're unable to resume men outreach ministries.

Some men who regularly attend church do notice that many programs tend to cater to women and elders, but that's changing.

University Park Baptist Church member Keith Cradle said men have to take it upon themselves to find programs they want to get involved in.

"It's not that hard to find anymore," he said. "There are places for men to get involved, they just don't."

That socialization starts early, Cradle said, remembering how difficult it was to get him to attend church as a boy.

But for some black men, there is no place for them in the church. As John W. Fountain wrote in the Washington Post: "Sunday mornings used to mean something special to me. But now I face them with dread, with a bittersweet sorrow that tugs at my heart. ... I am disconnected. Not necessarily from God but from the church."

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