

## The Black Church

This video is filled with information capturing the history of black church experience. The lecturer doesn't shy away from the issues that have driven change in the church. The lecturer first introduced himself and started telling the story. He begins with a background from the book, "The People Could Fly." The story of the book is a fantasy tale of the slaves who possessed the ancient magic words that enabled them to literally fly away to freedom. But I learned from the video that once the words of freedom were given to the enslaved people, they couldn't take it back. This is the reason why "the black church" was established. The lecturer defines the black church as family, liberation, a place of singing and freedom. This church was created to wrestle for freedom, and that is the only place the slaves are secure. One question the lecturer addresses is "Why are there divisions in the church and why is there a black church?" I learned that it didn't start as just a black church, it was a forced response to not being allowed the slaves to join other groups. Their motive was not separate people but rather to build a community. The beginning of the black faith tells of how religion was present within Africa. This proof was able to confound the idea that slavery was brought forth by Christianity. The video made me understand that African indoctrination involved in oral directions from rituals, proverbs, stories, music, dance, poetry, and folktales affected religion, while in the Western world, there was modern Christianity involving warped tradition. The scripture was misused to justify slavery because many people worshiping and praising God were still enslavers every other day of their lives. The symbol of the black church was very interesting to me. The lecturer made me understand that the black church was an imperceptible organization, but the community was free in God, even in their restraints. The song, and story became their joy. Through music, they were encouraged spiritually, physically and emotionally. They also brought direction as the songs

helped them know where they would go in the underground railroad. I learned that music, singing are symbolic and represent those who have been enslaved mentally, physically and emotionally. He also mentioned that the African Methodist church won the first denomination which I was hearing about for the first time. Historically, I believe black churches have been the most important and dominant institutional phenomenon in African American communities. The proscriptions of 250 years of slavery, followed by another hundred years of Jim Crow segregation, permitted only the religious enterprise among black people to become a stable, cohesive, and independent social institution. As a consequence, black churches have carried burdens and performed roles and functions beyond their boundaries of spiritual nurture in politics, economics, education, music, and culture. I was raised in the Black Church and this video opened my eyes to so many things I thought I had an understanding of and things I had given no thought to.