

# RELIGION

## Trin-I-Tee 5:7

"We can be stylish, hip and saved," says Trin-i-Tee 5:7, the next explosive smooth as silk, R&B flavored gospel phenomenon from B-Rite Music. Following the trail blazed by the wildly successful Kirk Franklin and God's Property comes Trin-I-Tee 5:7, the awesome all female trio that promises to change the way we view women in gospel music. "We want to be what we didn't have when we were younger. We didn't see women in gospel that got our attention, that looked like us, that were young, and fashionable.

This young, talented, cutting edge group consists of Chanell Haynes, whose smoky tenor vocals are peppered with traces of Toni Braxton and Anita Baker; Angel Taylor, whose angelic soprano voice reminds you of Brandy and Monica; and Terri Brown, whose soul stirring alto makes you feel like you are at a holy ghost filled revival. Together, these powerfully harmonious voices blend perfectly to deliver a sweet, spiritually satisfying feast for the mind, heart, and soul.

Since being signed with B-Rite, Trin-I-Tee 5:7 has been busy taking the country by storm! In between working on the album and photo shoots, they've been leaving audiences wanting more! They "tore the house up" and received a standing ovation when they opened for Kirk Franklin and God's Property. These talented young ladies "had church" at the House of Blues in Chicago. They were one of the artists featured at The Bobby Jones Explosion and were invited back to his birthday party.

Other girl groups can sing so, what's so special about Trin-I-Tee 5:7? Are they just another girl group? "There are plenty of girl groups that have wonderful make-up, tight dance steps and cool gear, but they aren't saying anything. Most of them are selling sex, sex, and more sex, because that's all they have to offer. They are singing about this empty love and that "hurt me" love. But we are singing about a love that won't hurt you, a lover that will never leave you, the best love anyone, male or female, could have." "Believe me, we are into wigs, make-up, choreographed shows, the works, but most importantly, we are ministering to people's souls. We want to prove that you don't have to look or be 'homey' or 'corny' to sing gospel music or be saved. You can look like "all that" and be an ambassador for Christ. You can be 'fly,' and be completely sold out for Christ."



## Releasing The Strong Man

By ROBERT KELLEY

In these closing days of the 20th century it is a pitiful spectacle to see African Americans still measuring the effectiveness of our emergence into the mainstream of American life based mostly on the extent of our political clout, educational attainment, economic gains through business ownership and corporate ladder climbing and social status. While these aspects of society are important.

Indeed, it is very apparent that factors other than politics, education, economics and social status are still impairing especially large number of black men from living out spiritually vigorous, morally responsible and productive lives--sadly, even within the church. This is the side of our emergence as a people that I believe is the most important of all for just as the Lord Jesus Christ says, "What profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul" (Matthew 16:26, KJV)?

What is this restlessness in the souls of so many black men, this lack of character, moral fortitude and bent toward self-destruction yet, prideful denial of a problem. As the Spirit of the living God has given me instruction, I have come to understand that like I once did, many, many African American men are grappling with the reality and vice grip like power of the psycho-emotional legacies of slavery and continuing racism. These legacies such as anger, have endured down through the generations and have effectively tied us up, allowing Satan--who Jesus calls "the thief"--to come and steal, kill and destroy in our lives (See John 10:10). And as the Lord teaches in Matthew 12:29, a thief can't enter and rob a man's house until he first binds up the strong

man!

Hasn't this thief, this enemy of our souls been successful in his work?! Black men in untold numbers daily father children out of wedlock and abandon them to the world. Daily, we maim and kill one another. We make up half of the American prison population. We abuse alcohol and other drugs to the extent that even so-called successful men forsake their families to devote their full-time energies to worshiping these gods of pleasure. Shamefully, even many of our brightest and best including spiritual leaders are corrupt and entangled with the legal system because we carry the chip on our shoulders that the "white man owes me." This success? No, but it is clearly the cumulative result of the psycho-emotional legacies of slavery and racism and the obvious impotency of societal successes to bring deliverance, healing and renewal.

We've tried everything now. Isn't it time we men come back to the faith that helped a great many of our slave ancestors endure even the most wretched of injustices? Yes, the answer is in Jesus Christ who holds out to us four eternal remedies that in the mix of His mighty power, will bring us the deliverance, healing and renewal we need. In Jesus Christ, truth, faith, hope and love are able to set us free from the psycho-emotional legacies of slavery and racism--ties that have bound us far too long; releasing us to be the strong men in His own image and likeness he created us to be.

Reverend Robert Kelley is the founder/president of Open Door Communication Ministries, Inc. of Clackamas and pastor of the St. Mark Baptist Church of Portland, Oregon. He will conduct the "Releasing The Strong Man Seminar" at St. Mark, August 24th-28th, 7PM nightly.

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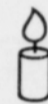
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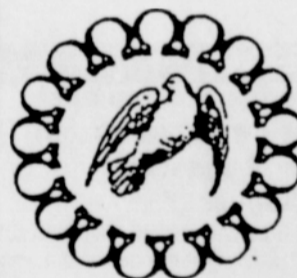
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