

The Issues That Have Divided Us

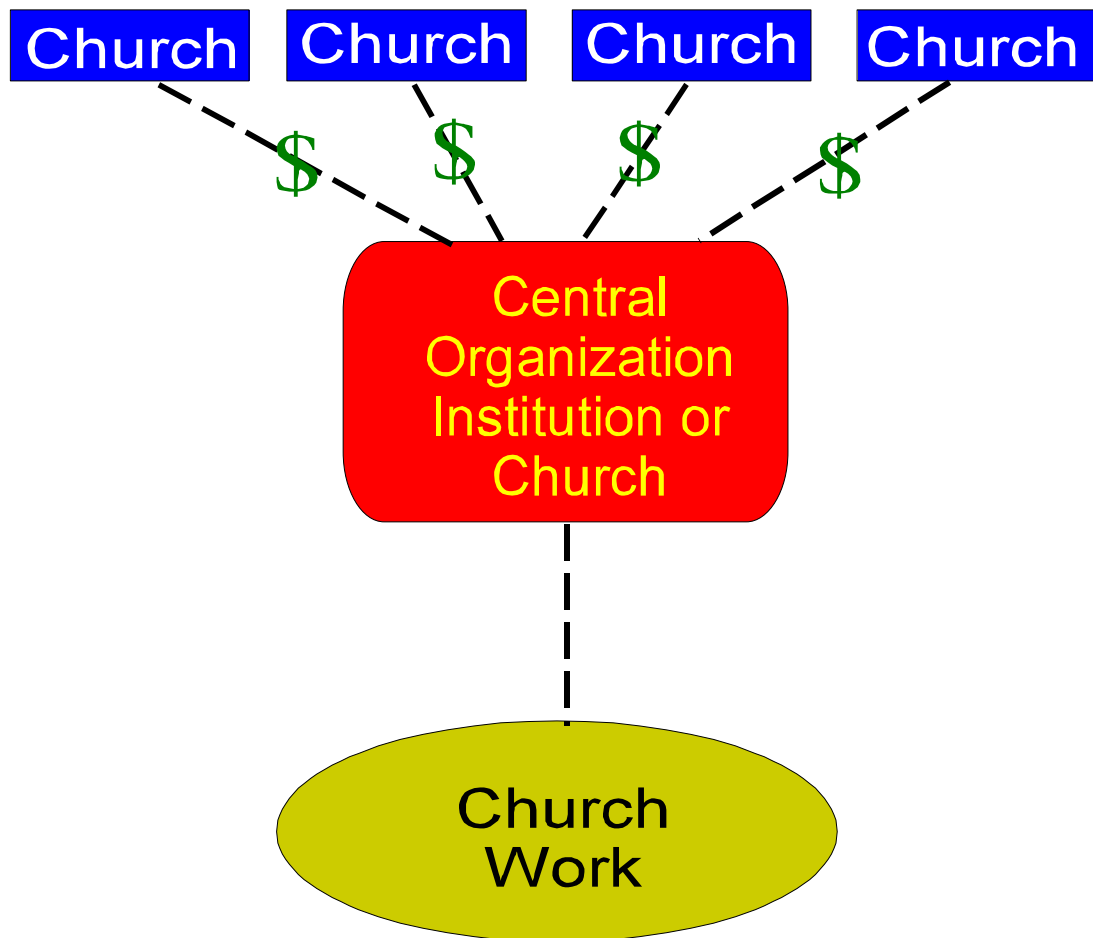
1800's

- Centralization of Resources
 - Missionary Institutions
- Instrumental Music in Worship

1900's

- Centralization of Resources
 - Benevolent Institutions
 - “Sponsoring” churches
- Social Gospel influences in church work.

How Centralization Works



New Testament Principle of Congregational Independence

- Congregations addressed independently
Acts 11:22; 18:22; 20:17; Rom. 16:1, 4, 5, 23; 1 Cor. 1:2; 4:17
- Congregations organized independently.
1 Pet. 5:1-2; Acts 14:23; Tit. 1:5; Acts 20:17; Phil. 1:1.
- Congregations acted independently.
 - Sending out preachers (Acts 11:22; 13:1-3).
 - Supporting preachers (Phil. 4:15-18).
 - Benevolence (Acts 6; 1 Cor. 16:1-4; 2 Cor. 8:18-24)
- Congregations cooperated independently

Concurrent action

versus

Joint action

