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

Central Organization Institution or Church

Church

Church

Church

Church

Church Work
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.**
  - 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