

Views of the church
affecting history

Q: What is the “church”?
Is the “church” made up of churches?
Mt 16:18...Ac 2:41...1Co 12:12,13,27
1Co 1:2

“*brotherhood*”? or “*churchhood*”?

So what...?

“district of churches”

1 Co 16:1,19; Gal 1:22; Ac 9:31 (NASB)

Campbell: These churches “cooperated”—“go and do likewise.” — Q: “Cooperate” by...

- *Assembling together for worship or work?*
- *Having a common oversight?*
- *Working through a common fund?*
- *Selecting delegates to represent them in a common, but separate organization for mission work?*

“district of churches”

1 Co 16:1,19; Gal 1:22; Ac 9:31 (NASB)

Was there ever a “district church” *or any other organization/collective* that united these churches for cooperation under a common oversight and through a common fund?

Ac 20:28; 1 Pt 5:2; Ac 4:32,35;
Ac 11:30 (Gal 1:22); 1 Co 16:3

“appointed by the churches”

2Co 8:19

Same man appointed by churches in several districts (1Co 16:1; 2Co 8:1) as their agent, but no indication of “cooperation” under a oversight common to all the churches.

Ac 20:28; 1Pt 5:2; Ac 4:32,35;

Ac 11:30 (Gal 1:22); 1Co 16:3

“M. & A...make a contribution (*koinOnia*)”

Rom 15:26

“*bring about a participation*” Meyer

“*exercise a fellowship*” Lenski

“*share their resources*” NRSV

“*make some contribution*” ESV

Same benevolent effort, but no indication of
“cooperation” under a oversight common
to all the churches in the districts.

Ac 20:28; 1Pt 5:2

1823 - Alexander Campbell (*fuzzy...?*)

“These churches of Christ knew nothing of the hobbies of modern times... They neither transformed themselves into any other kind of association, nor did they fracture and sever themselves into divers societies. They viewed the church of Jesus Christ as the scheme of heaven... They dared not transfer to a missionary society... a cent or a prayer, lest in so doing they should rob the church of its glory... In their church capacity alone they moved. The church they considered 'the pillar and ground of the truth;'... They considered if they did all they could in this capacity, they had nothing left for any other object of a religious nature...” The Christian Religion, *Christian Baptist* (1823), pp. 6-7. “Alexander Campbell and Church Cooperation” by Stephen Lane.

1831 - Alexander Campbell

“A church can do what an individual disciple cannot, and so can a **district of churches** do what a **single congregation** cannot. ... if we cannot show that in the apostolic churches such cooperation existed, and that it was a part of the means adopted by the authority of the Lord for the furtherance of the gospel.” *Millennial Harbinger* (1831), pp. 234-38.

Ibid, Lane

What “a **single congregation cannot**” do, a “**district of churches**” can (collectively), so, although “**cannot show**” such “**cooperation**” existed in NT ...

1835 - Alexander Campbell

“The kingdom of Jesus Christ consists of numerous communities [churches, srf] ... Every individual disciple is a particular member of that body or congregation with which he is united in christian communion and the whole of that community to which he belongs is but a member of that great body which is figuratively called the body Christ He is the head of the whole body or christian congregation not merely or specially of one community but of all the separate communities as constituting one kingdom” *Millennial Harbinger*, vol. 6, p. 168. *Arlington Meeting*, p. 254

Impact – churches related as members of one body > duties > devise way to “cooperate” **Scripture?**

1849 - American Christian Missionary Society

“...call for more efficient organization of our churches” “Church Organization” *Millennial Harbinger* (1849), p. 90

October, 1849, Cincinnati, Ohio, ACMS born

opposition disregarded... division... floodgates opened for other digression (e.g. instrumental music) ... Disciples of Christ Denomination

Our lesson: *Views of the church affecting history!*

1st half last century... Today... tomorrow...???

2Tim 1:13

Applies to the “church,” what it is, how it is governed, how it works, and how it is entered...