

## CHAPTER III

### RACE RELATIONS AMONG CHURCHES OF CHRIST

#### Origin of Black Churches Out of White Churches

##### Early Beginnings

The beginnings of the Churches of Christ in the United States can be traced to the works of men in different locations and in different religious traditions who became dissatisfied with denominationalism and sought to unite all Christians by restoring the original church of the first century.<sup>1</sup> These beginnings occurred between 1790 and 1810. Leaders from various churches were somewhat inspired by the genius displayed within the political life of the country as this new nation was being formed. Both church and state were drawing on the optimism of that period, which saw this country as God's place for a new beginning. The country provided for re-creating life as God intended it to be. Church leaders and politicians were attempting to take the best from the past and build afresh on solid foundation.

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<sup>1</sup>Earl Irvin West, The Search for the Ancient Order, 3 vols. (Indianapolis, Ind.: Religious Book Service, 1949-79); Frank S. Mead, Handbook of Denominations in the United States, 8th ed. rev. by Samuel S. Hill (Nashville, Tenn.: Abingdon Press, 1985), pp. 93-95.