Is the Modern Parachurch a Reflection of Misguided Ecclesiology?

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Abstract
In light of the present situation of Christianity, it has become necessary to examine the biblical basis for ministries outside the normal parameters of the Church. One of the biggest problems with addressing this issue is that of defining the parachurch. An accurate and sufficient definition for what constitutes a parachurch ministry requires an investigation into biblical ecclesiology. The relationship between parachurch ministries and the local and universal church must be established in a time when the lines between them are blurred. Some basic principles need to be established which describe what constitutes a biblical reason for the creation of parachurch ministries, what guidelines those ministries should follow, and what type of relationship they should maintain with local churches.
Coalition). Books are a tremendous resource that bolsters the ministry of the church. My home and office are filled with them. Yet a local church cannot—and probably should not—spend time picking out paper quality, finding mass-producing machines, researching binding techniques, and advertising books. Is the modern parachurch a result of misguided ecclesiology? As the Church moves into the 21st century, it has come to a point where the form, function, and purpose of its existence has come under scrutiny from both outside and within. The anti-institutionalism that has pervaded much of Western society in the 20th century continues to challenge the church and shape the way that it interacts with the world. One of the areas where the shift of the Church as an institution was most clearly seen is in the rise of parachurch ministries. As recent as 2000, the combined estimated budget of parachurch organizations was $22 billion.1 Their existence and influence on the world today is impossible to ignore; however, on what basis or authority do they function?