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“Models of Christian Influence” (5-3-1)

Questions

1. **What are the differences between personal and structural actions?** Hollinger explains that personal models focus on individual needs and seek to bring about changes at the individual level. Meanwhile, structural models seek to change laws and institutional practices within society.
2. **What is one of the weaknesses of Christian relief, according to Hollinger?** According to Hollinger, one of the weaknesses of Christian relief is that it is “love devoid of justice.” Hollinger agrees that Christian relief is necessary, but asserts that it falls short of solving long-term problems or addressing the institutional dimension of issues.
3. **What is an alternative institution?** Within the context of the chapter, an alternative institution is a Christian institutions created to address a particular need or issue, such as a hospital or a school.
4. **What are some of the different ways that Christians have understood the relationship between evangelism and social concern?** Some Christians have understood evangelism as a social concern. Others have seen social concern as the prelude to evangelism. Some have viewed social concern itself as evangelism. Still others have seen evangelism and social concern as distinct yet partners in the mission of the church.

5. **What David Gushee write about gospel proclamation?** Gushee writes, “The gospel—rightly understood—addresses human communities and human societies with its word of redemption. Thus, it is fair to assert that proclaimers of the gospel should regularly address all dimensions of human personhood and human community.”

Vocabulary

- **Remedial model:** attempts to address an already existing evil, unethical practice, injustice, or a social problem
- **Preventative actions:** seeks not just a remedy for the moment but prevention for the future
- **Middle axiom:** a step beyond the norms themselves to indicate directions the norms might take in society while stopping short of specific policy positions or strategies

Summary

In this chapter, Hollinger examines Christians' various methods of impacting culture and society. Simultaneously, he points out the advantages and limitations associated with each approach. To this end, Hollinger concedes there is not always a standardized choice regarding which approach will be the most effective. Ultimately, he admits that multiple factors are usually involved and must be considered to determine the most suitable course of action.