

1. What we are looking for

We're looking for posts that...

- stimulate thought and encourage joyful, persevering obedience in the various different spheres of life and ministry.
- are charitable (without being syrupy or uncritical), serious (without being stiff or overly formal).
- are engaging and accessible to a broad range of adult Christian readers (not just those with a formal theological education).
- are written clearly with an identifiable aim or key idea.

We especially welcome posts that are...

- timely—that give readers help or guidance on current issues. This is particularly significant for “Current Events” contributions, but all posts draw more interest when they’re related to some contemporary event or debate.
- heartfelt—that provide honest and insightful reflection on some aspect of Christian (or simply human) life, its joys and struggles.
- practical—that offer ordinary Christians and those in ministry new ways to think and act.
- short! We don’t want posts much longer than 1000 words. Sometimes we will break longer posts into several installments but, generally, short is good.

2. What we aren't looking for

Here are some things that might make us balk at your contribution:

- The post presents a view that is at odds with TGCA’s objects or foundational documents. (see <https://australia.thegospelcoalition.org/about/foundational-documents>). TGCA does not always insist that guest writers must be in agreement with these principles (regular contributors must), but we won’t publish contributions that challenge or undermine them.
- The post doesn’t engage with Scripture or offer a distinctly Christian insight.
- The tone of the post is uncharitable or reactive.
- The post is too politically partisan.

3. Some Style Issues.

TGCA has a style guide that contains specific information about things like: how to refer to books of the Bible; which translation to use; when to use single or double quotation marks etc. Please take the time to have a look at this. It will help us to get your article online more quickly. <http://thegospelcoalition.org.au/resources/>

...Style Issues (cont.)

Miscellaneous style tips.

- Try to keep your sentences short—under 20 words, if possible—but also vary their length. The first will make it easier for people to read your post; the second will give texture to your writing. Really. It will.
- Avoid passive voice as much as you can—it sounds academic. Notice the difference between the following statements. The first is passive, the second and third are more personal and active.
 1. *Christians have now been given a new relationship with God*
 2. *We now have a new relationship with God.*
 3. *God has made us his friends and his children.*
- Try to keep it to one main idea per paragraph.
- Sub-headings can help break up your text and make it easier to read. If you don't put them, in we might.

4. What to expect from us.

Expect us to edit your content.

Sometimes quite a lot. We want your post to be as readable as it can be and that often means messing with it. Not all writers like this, but the final result will be stronger. If there are things that you feel particularly strong about, work with us—we can usually negotiate a compromise.

Expect publication to take a bit of time.

The TGCA editors are all part time and mostly voluntary. That means our time is limited and we won't always be able to get to your post as quickly as you would like. Nevertheless, here are a couple of things you can do to help us.

1. Please tell us if you believe that your article needs to get out quickly—say, to coincide with developments in current events. If we agree, we'll work amongst ourselves to try to move things along.
2. Try to follow the style suggestions as much as you can when you prepare your submission. This will make things easier for us.

Expect us to respond to you.

We will do our best to respond as quickly as possible when you make contact with us. We are *extremely* grateful for the hard work of our contributors and want to encourage you. Please feel free to nudge us a bit if we don't get back to you promptly. Thank you so much for writing for The Gospel Coalition Australia!