

G O S P E L → T A B O O →

Gospel Taboo is a contributor-based platform that poses and hopefully sometimes answers theological questions to an uncertain life. We believe our fundamental theology as individuals informs how we live on a daily basis. Our writers bring a variety of perspectives from their different backgrounds, lifestyles and locations, but our central theme is faithfulness to Christ in a world full of challenges.

READABILITY

- Tone should be conversational
- Avoid being overly technical or academic
- Use short paragraphs and sub-headings
- Use bulleted or numbered lists whenever you can

CONTENT

- Gospel and Christ centered
- Biblical—arguments should be supported with Scripture
- Relational—personal stories are great to illuminate truth, but they shouldn't be the main point.
- Specific and practical—readers should be able to apply what you are saying to their own lives.
- We are happy to consider other things besides written pieces (videos, art pieces, photography, short teaching videos). It still has to be relevant, helpful, and connect with our readers.

GENERAL STYLE TIPS

- 800-1000 words.
- Use active, not passive voice as much as possible.
- Write simply and clearly.
- Avoid clutter and repetition.
- Use contractions.

EDITING EXPECTATIONS

- We edit every article, and some pieces will need extensive editing. Editing can sometimes be a painful process (for us too!), so please know we do so in hopes of making your writing better and encouraging you in your work.
- Many articles can take weeks or months to appear on Gospel Taboo. This doesn't mean that your article is unwanted. We're thankful for and value your contribution and willingness to write.
- It's wise to have at least two or three other people read your article and provide feedback before submitting it. The best way to improve in our writing is to listen to helpful critique. The more you edit on the front-end, the more easily your article will move towards publication.

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SPECIFIC EDITING

Abbreviations

Degrees

B.A., B.S., M.A., M.Div., D.Min., Th.M., Ph.D.

Months

(Only abbreviate a month when referencing a specific day or days)

Jan., Feb., March, April, May, June, July, Aug., Sept., Oct., Nov. and Dec.

Scripture references

Only abbreviate books of the Bible in parenthetical references

Gen, Exod, Lev, Num, Deut, Josh, Judg, Ruth, 1-2 Sam, 1-2 Kgs, 1-2, Chr, Ezra, Neh, Esth, Job, Ps (plural: Pss), Prov, Eccl, Song of Sol, Isa, Jer, Lam, Ezek, Dan, Hos, Joel, Amos, Obad, Jonah, Mic, Nah, Hab, Zeph, Hag, Zech, Mal, Matt, Mark, Luke, John, Acts, Rom, 1-2 Cor, Gal, Eph, Phil, Col, 1-2 Thess, 1-2 Tim, Titus, Phlm, Heb, Jas, 1-2 Pet, 1-3 John, Jude, Rev

Capitalization

Only capitalize proper nouns.

Common mistakes:

- God is “he” NOT “He”
- The word “gospel” is only capitalized when referencing the canonical Gospels (e.g., Gospel of Matthew)
- “biblical” NOT “Biblical”
- “scriptural” NOT “Scriptural”
- Job titles are only capitalized when used as proper nouns (e.g., positions NOT capitalized in narrative text)

Ellipsis and emdash

No space on either side of both the emdash and ellipsis

Numbers

Write out all numbers lower than 10; use Arabic numerals for all numbers 10 and higher.

Serial comma

Use the serial or Oxford comma (e.g., the comma following the second-to-last item in a list; e.g., “Me, myself, and I”; NOT “Me, myself and I.”).