

JBC Article Guidelines

Here are the criteria we use to evaluate article submissions.

1. Does the article reflect biblical counseling goals and practice?

The mission of the *Journal of Biblical Counseling* (JBC) is to develop clearer thinking and effective practice in biblical counseling. We seek to do this through publishing articles that faithfully bring the God of truth, mercy and power to the issues that face pastoral ministries of counseling and discipleship. Does your article reflect these principles of our mission? We want to consistently demonstrate that counseling is one of the core ministries of Christ's people, and that it should be both faithful to Scripture and relevant to life's problems.

2. Is the article adapted to the JBC context?

Many authors wish to submit something they wrote in another context. It may be a sermon, an essay or paper written for a class, or even a section from a published work. We are glad to consider any of these, but ask that you not simply send us what you have already used elsewhere. If you would like us to consider it, please be thoughtful about how your work will need to be revised to speak to our audience and will align with the goals of our mission.

3. Does it add to the field?

Does your article add something fresh to the field of biblical counseling and pastoral care? We are looking for content that either tackles a new topic, unpacks Scripture with relevance to a particular problem, or offers original guidance or biblical thought to practitioners.

4. Is it practical?

Does your article offer practical implications? An analysis of a Scripture passage or evaluation of a particular therapy are welcome ideas, but does your article understand and suggest how this passage or approach to counseling helps a counselor or pastor when ministering to others? Our intent is not simply to exegete or analyze but to take that information and make it helpful to our readers. How can the passage help us do what we do better? How can the work of a theorist be of use to counselors or pastors?

5. Is the writing style appropriate?

Our genre is practical theology. We endeavor to use language that is accessible, clear, non-technical and free from jargon. If you are not a JBC subscriber, we suggest you read a couple of recent articles to get a feel for what we mean.

6. How long is the article?

We do not have preset word limits but try to keep featured articles under 8,000 words. We do allow for longer works as needed. Counselor's Toolbox, book reviews and other pieces tend to be shorter, running from 2,000 to 5,000 words.

7. What do we look for in a book reviews?

A book review should help the reader answer the question: Should I read this book? To do this, we suggest you summarize the book, noting the primary points of content. Offer a reading strategy. What should the reader keep in mind while reading? For example, what is the worldview of the author? Next, provide a thoughtful critique that assesses the book's strengths and weaknesses. Be sure to also offer clear guidance on how to interpret the content from the point of view of biblical counseling.