

Critique Give and Take

1) Reasons to join a critique group (2 Timothy 2:15)

- Improve your writing
- Increase chances of publication
- Obtain an objective point of view

2) How to find a critique group (Ecclesiastes 3:6)

- *Christian Writer's Market Guide*
- Local or online writing group
- Local or online writing classes
- Libraries or bookstores
- Online search
- Newspaper ad (start your own)

3) What to look for in a critique group (Proverbs 27:6)

- Christian versus non-Christian group
- Respect between members
- Atmosphere of encouragement
- Pride in work
- Clearly understood rules
- Personal accountability
- Strong leader or moderator
- Variety of writers

4) How to give critique (Matthew 7:12)

- *See Marlene Bagnall's guidelines under "Critique Process"
- Pray God shows you:
 - When to overlook personal preferences (pet peeves)
 - When to avoid nitpicking
 - When praise is badly needed
 - When pointing out something that should be said in gentleness
- Do not rewrite or change writer's voice
- Do not point out every error
- Do point out stray or missing words
- Do make suggestions and give examples
- Do comment on continuity
- Give further praise and overall suggestions at end
- Be ready to apologize if necessary
- Read others' critiques

5) How to accept critique (1 Corinthians 3:2)

- *See Marlene Bagnall's guidelines under "Critique Process"
- Pray:
 - God will give you a teachable spirit
 - You will know what responses to take to heart and what to discard
 - You will not feel the need to rebut or defend every suggestions
 - You will accept praise in genuine humility
- Critiquee's responsibilities:
 - Give minimal instructions
 - Proofread
 - Incorporate previous suggestions

6) Unique critique personalities (Romans 12:18)

- Cora the Comma Queen
- Eagle Eye Annie
- Talkative Ted
- Sensitive Susie
- Zealous Zelda

7) When it's time to move on (Ecclesiastes 3:6)

- Group gets too big
- You outgrow the group
- Members not following rules