

Guidelines for Journal Book Reviews

Matt Elofson, Editor

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Purpose

The book review section of the journal is a major resource for scholars, pastors, students and lay people in identifying and assessing informative and well-written books related to youth ministry education, research, theology, and *praxis*.

Guidelines

- An excellent book review, while setting forth the key ideas of a book, must go beyond extended publicity. It should be more than a mere summary of the book's contents. The review should set forth the relative strengths and weaknesses of the argument made by the author(s) of the book.
- The reviewer should also locate the book in relation to similar publications and note the specific contributions it makes to the field of study.
- The review should assess the value and potential impact the book will have and specify the audience that will most likely benefit from it.
- Write the review with purpose; get right to the point. Reviews should be conducted with decorum. Resist any temptation to be "cute," "trendy," or too casual.
- Make sure to identify, summarize, and critique key chapters/sections of the book.
- Describe the purpose of the text and its intended audience.
- Explain how the author attempts to accomplish the stated purpose. Assess the author's effectiveness regarding achieving the purpose of the text.
- Suggest how the reader might use the book in a teaching setting.
- Provide your overall impressions of the book. Is it worth reading? Why or why not?

Format

- Reviews must be submitted as MS Word documents using an 11pt Palatino Linotype font with normal paragraph style.
- The document pages should be formatted on 6" wide x 9" length pages with the following margins: top and bottom: .75"; left side: 1"; right side: .50.
- The review must begin with an **emboldened** formal citation of the book. These citations must be formatted according to the Chicago Manual of Style (Turabian, 8th Ed.).

Example:

Cannister, Mark. *Teenagers Matter: Making Student Ministry a Priority in the Church*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2013. 288 pp., \$24.00

- Reviews should be between **800-1000 words**. Exceptions may be made based on relevance and content of the text.

- Upon conclusion of the review, place your name (no titles or degrees) in the lower right corner, followed by your institutional affiliation (college/university, church, organization) and its geographic location (city, state).

Example:

Matt Elofson
Azusa Pacific University
Azusa, CA

Submission

- All book reviews should be submitted electronically to Dr. Matt Elofson at jym.bkrvw@gmail.com.
- To be considered for inclusion in the journal, reviews must be submitted to the editor by July 15th for the fall issue and December 15th for the spring issue.