

Appendix 7



The Critique Process

Realizing that the critiquing process can be very threatening, here are some guidelines.

GUIDELINES FOR CRITIQUERS

1. Ask God for discernment and sensitivity.
2. Find something positive to say about the manuscript *before* making suggestions for change.
3. Respect one another's beliefs. Do *not* debate theology.
4. Use a checkoff list to consider various aspects of the manuscripts. You won't help the writer by a casual critique and the comment that "it's wonderful."
5. As much as possible, give equal time to all who have manuscripts to read.
6. Try to suggest possible markets.
7. Strive always to be honest encouragers.

GUIDELINES FOR THE PERSON BEING CRITIQUED

1. Have someone else read your manuscript. Hearing your manuscript read aloud is a wonderful way of picking up on problem areas.
2. If possible, bring copies of your manuscript. It is often much easier for others to spot problem areas when they can see as well as hear it being read.
3. Be open to new thoughts and ideas.
4. Listen. Do *not* debate or argue or defend your work.
5. Pray about the suggestions you've received.
6. Be accountable to work with your manuscript (or with another writing project if you determine the manuscript you have read is not worth pursuing) in order to be a good steward of the group's time.
7. "Commit your work to the Lord, then it will succeed" (Prov. 16:3).