

# Essay Submissions

[anabaptistperspectives.org/essays](http://anabaptistperspectives.org/essays)



**What is an essay?** An essay is a determined attempt to think clearly and truthfully and bring readers along in that journey. Essays unmask confusion, put clues together, or make underappreciated truths vivid. Essays should make an argument but never attempt to prove a point at the expense of honest consideration. We publish original essays between 1200 and 3000 words in length and distribute them on various platforms.

**Who should submit?** *You! Provided your work aligns with our Vision, Mission, and Values & Approach. Send essays by email to [marlin@anabaptistperspectives.org](mailto:marlin@anabaptistperspectives.org)*

**What is the review process?** *The essays editors evaluates submissions for general fit and forwards essays deemed a potential fit to the editorial committee. Submissions will receive one of three responses at the sole discretion of Anabaptist Perspectives.*

1. *Sorry, we can't publish your essay.*
2. *Essay accepted.*
3. *Revise and resubmit.*

*A "revise and resubmit" means we see strong potential but want to see certain things addressed before publishing. Note: this does not mean you should submit rough drafts. Essay submissions should be well-developed and polished.*

**Authors retain copyright** and we direct reprint requests to the author. We request a courtesy mention on reprints that the essay first appeared on Anabaptist Perspectives.

## Representative Topics

- **Biblical themes**—fresh reflections on biblical texts that challenge our habits of thinking or acting.
- **Life experience**—lessons and observations from the author's life and endeavors in missions, study, church life, business, parenting, education, and in general doing good.
- **Philosophy and theology**—attempts to understand and describe God and his creation through exploring ideas.
- **History and culture**—attempts to understand our past and present context in terms of events, people, practices, and ideas. This may be the specific context of North American Anabaptists, or something as broad as global history.
- **Lifestyle, practices, and virtues**—suggestions for wise living as individuals and communities or discussions of Christian character.

## Vision

Using digital media to encourage allegiance to Jesus' sacrificial kingdom.

## Mission

1. Engage with questions important for faithful living in ways that are biblically, historically, and theologically informed.
2. Share stories and history (especially from the Anabaptist movement) as a source of understanding and inspiration for serving the King.
3. Publish content regularly on major platforms, interact with audience responses, and build an expanding resource library.

## Values and Approach

1. We represent Christianity as understood and lived by those who
  - a. focus on the life and teachings of Jesus,
  - b. attempt to straightforwardly live out New Testament teachings, both individually and as churches,
  - c. and whose allegiance is to the global, upside down, kingdom of Christ, rather than to national or ethnic identity.
2. Views expressed by contributors do not necessarily reflect an official position of Anabaptist Perspectives. This project is to encourage discussion and contemplation. However, we recognize the need for discretion as our platform has influence.
3. Contributors come primarily from moderately conservative Anabaptist circles. We are open to other contributors who share key beliefs, values, and practices.
4. We define the center rather than police the periphery. Rather than defining exact boundaries for which contributors or viewpoints are on Anabaptist Perspectives we focus on pulling the majority of contributors from squarely within the beliefs, values, and practices we represent.
5. Contributors should have the experience, knowledge, and maturity needed for their topic. Credible life experience is important for difficult or contentious topics. A potential contributor's way of engaging with others, including on social media, is a significant factor.
6. We approach contentious topics in the most helpful way we can. We do not want to be inflammatory or "answer a fool according to his folly," but we do believe in helpful dialogue as well as clear statements when clear statements are needed. We welcome productive conversations between differing viewpoints but not adversarial debates.
7. We attempt an honest, realistic approach to problems in and critiques of Anabaptist beliefs and practices, neither whitewashing problems nor exaggerating them.