

# Critics Beware

by D.L. Moody

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*The sermon emphasizes the importance of living a life of love, forbearance, and kindness, and warns against the dangers of finding fault and working mischief.*

**Scripture:** 1 Corinthians 13:4

**Topics:** "Criticism", "Love"

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## Description

D.L. Moody emphasizes the transformative power of love in his sermon 'Critics Beware,' arguing that true love rebukes evil without rejoicing in it and is patient with sinners while being intolerant of sin. He warns against the damaging habit of constant fault-finding, which detracts from spiritual growth and encourages a self-centered attitude. Moody illustrates this with the example of a woman who selflessly anointed Jesus, highlighting that genuine love for Christ leads to actions that glorify Him rather than criticize others. He calls for a collective effort to eliminate criticism from the Church and to cultivate a spirit of love for God, His Word, and the community. Ultimately, Moody asserts that when we embody this love, our actions will reflect our relationship with Jesus and inspire others.

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## Transcript

Love will rebuke evil, but will not rejoice in it. Love will be impatient of sin, but patient with the sinner. To form the habit of finding fault constantly, is very damaging to spiritual life; it is about the lowest and meanest position that a man can take. I never saw a man who was aiming to do the best work, but there could have been some improvement; I never did anything in my life, I never addressed an audience, that I didn't think I could have done better. and I have often upbraided myself that I had not done better; but to sit down and find fault with other people when we are doing nothing ourselves, not lifting our hands to save some one, is all wrong, and is the opposite of holy, patient, divine love.

Love is forbearance; and what we want is to get this spirit of criticism and fault finding out of the Church and out of our hearts; and let each one of us live as if we had to answer for ourselves, and not for the community, at the last day. if we are living according to the 13th chapter of Corinthians, we will not be all the time finding fault with other people. "Love suffereth long, and is kind." Love forgets itself, and don't dwell upon itself. The woman who came to Christ with that alabaster box, I venture to say, never thought of herself. Little did she know what an act she was performing. It was just her love for the Master. She forgot the surroundings, she forgot everything else that was there; she broke that box and poured the ointment upon Him, and filled the house with its odor. The act, as a memorial, has come down these 1800

years. It is right here - the perfume of that box is in the world today. That ointment was worth \$40 or \$50; no small sum of those days for a poor woman. Judas sold the Son of God for about \$15 or \$20. But what this woman gave to Christ was everything that she had, and she became so occupied with Jesus Christ that she didn't think what people were going to say. So when we act with a single eye for the glory of our lord, not finding fault with everything about us, but doing what we can in the power of this love, then will our deeds for God speak, and the world will acknowledge that we have been with Jesus, and that this glorious love has been shed abroad in our hearts.

If we don't love the Church of God, I am afraid it won't do us much good; if we don't love the blessed Bible, it will not do us much good. What we want, then, is to have love for Christ, to have love for His Word, and to have love for the Church of God, and when we have love, and are living in that spirit, we will not be in the spirit of finding fault and working mischief.

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Source: <https://sermonindex.net/speakers/dl-moody/critics-beware/>

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