

Constant Complainers

by Earl Kimbrough

Some people are forever and eternally complaining. They criticize nearly every thing that is said and done. They are constant complainers. Nobody ever exactly suits them. Jesus condemned the mote hunter as possessing a disposition contrary to that which should characterize a citizen of His kingdom. *“And why do you look at the speck in your brother’s eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye?”* (Matt. 7:3). Notice the harm done by the constant complainer.

1. **He has the wrong outlook on life.** He sets himself up as a judge of others. In so doing he manifests an arrogant attitude unworthy of one who claims to follow Jesus. The constant complainer is always ready — whether bidden or not — to offer his criticism of the words and deeds of others. He judges where Jesus said *“Judge not”* (Matt. 7:1) This kind of judgment can in no wise be called righteous because its very roots are in the fault-finding spirit which is itself evil.
2. **He is the most self-centered of persons.** He expects everyone to listen to his complaints, but if someone complains of him, he becomes highly offended and deeply hurt. The constant complainer is very often one who is trying to cover his own insecurity by tearing down everyone else. But one thing is sure, if one is going to be a mote hunter, he may as well expect to be “mote hunted.” Jesus said, *“For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you”* (Matt. 7:2).
3. **He is blinded to his own faults.** The mote hunter is so busy condemning what others say and do that he doesn’t see the *“beam”* in his own eye. In reality he is blind to his faults, the chief of which may well be his fault-finding disposition. Mote hunters commonly mistake their complaining of others to be simply a matter of being “frank and honest.” They take pride in saying what they “think.” But there is no virtue in being unable to control one’s tongue.
4. **He is obnoxious.** Nobody wants to hear complaining constantly. A nagging wife may run off a good husband (some have). People are just not going to listen to one who complains eternally and they will avoid the company of such persons as much as possible. The mote hunter will find himself cut off and left out and he can blame none but himself for his isolation.
5. **He discourages others.** Many good plans have been ruined by the ever-present complainer. I have had many good days ruined by having to listen to such. (That is, until I learned to file such complaints where they belong — in the garbage pail — and forget them.) But many weak persons in the church are discouraged and even depart from the faith because of the fault-finder. The harm one does in hunting motes is untold.

We all perhaps are guilty of too much complaining, but if all of us complained and found fault as much as some do, the church would fall apart. Examine yourselves! Are you one who criticizes too much and too often for your own good and for the good of the church? ***“Judge not, that ye be not judged.”***

— via Dumas Guardian
Dumas, Texas
volume 5, number 12
December, 1978

Editor’s Note: Though this article was written almost forty years ago, it is still applicable today. It is tragic that some brethren think of themselves as super-righteous when they are just the opposite! They not only criticize the church and its leadership, but they never stop to realize that in their condemnation of others they have become Judge, Jury and Executioner. I cannot think of any passage that gives that much power to one person. Please read this article carefully and pass it on to those who may need it. Let us all examine **ourselves** to see if we are in the Faith, 2 Cor. 13:5.

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