

Facing Criticism in Union with Christ

Mike Warren

Introduction – we all face criticism

- *Describe a time when you were criticised*
- *What thoughts went round your head following that criticism?*

Criticism comes from different people in different ways

- *What effect has criticism had on you?*

Criticism and an Unhealthy imagination

1. Defence Lawyer
2. Prosecution Lawyer – prosecuting our critic
3. Prosecution Lawyer – prosecuting ourselves

Criticism and Identity

The complexity of our identity:

- Permanent, eternal, given identity
 - Temporary, this-worldly identity
- *Which aspects of your permanent identity do you tend to dwell on?*
 - *Which aspects of your temporary identity do you tend to dwell on?*

Criticism and a Healthy Imagination

Imagination is a good gift from God

Imagination is necessary to understand the Bible – narrative, parable, poetry, metaphor, imagery.

Words must be translated into images, feelings, sensations and experiences. Words are more mediated, requiring more from us, and therefore yielding more for us.

Karen Swallow Prior, <https://tinyurl.com/sbdy7evv>

Imagining our permanent, eternal, given identity

A secure identity means finding blessing in criticism

Paul, criticism and identity – 2 Corinthians 7:1-16