

A photograph of a dark, stormy sky over a landscape. A faint rainbow is visible on the left side of the image. The text "Assuming Way Too Much" is overlaid in the center in white. The sky is a deep, dark blue, and the landscape below is a mix of dark green trees and lighter, hazy ground.

Assuming Way Too Much

# Assuming Way Too Much

- We are repulsed by the sin of gossip; it has been that way since Creation
  - Lev. 19:16 - “You shall not go about as a talebearer among your people; nor shall you take a stand against the life of your neighbor: I am the LORD.”
  - Psalm 50:20 - “You sit and speak against your brother; You slander your own mother's son.”
  - Ez. 22:9 - “In you are men who slander to cause bloodshed”

# Assuming Way Too Much

- The sin of assumption carries the same pedigree as gossip.
- Assumption is the mother of gossip, and malice is the father
- Defining assumption: “An assumption is something that we take for granted without bothering to find proof to support it.”



# Assuming Way Too Much

- “If others tell us something, we make assumptions, and if they don't tell us something, we make assumptions to fulfill our need to know and to replace the need to communicate. Even if we hear something and we don't understand, we make assumptions about what it means and then believe the assumptions. We make all sorts of assumptions because we don't have the courage to ask questions.” (Miguel Ruiz)

# Assuming Way Too Much

- “Thus we use our supposed ‘knowledge’ of others to speak on their behalf, and condemn them for their words we ourselves put into their silent mouths.” (Margaret George)
- “The power of generalizing and the ability to make assumptions gives men so much more superiority over dumb animals when it comes to making mistakes.” (George Eliot)



# Assuming Way Too Much

- Assumptions are necessary. We have to assume many things to go about our daily lives because we do not have the time and energy to challenge or to worry about every matter that comes our way.



# What Assumptions Can Do:

- Stifle growth and development
- Hinder creativity
- Cause opportunities to be missed
- Cause erring beliefs
- Cause errors in judgment and action
- Cause misunderstandings



# Not All Assumption Is Sin

- Dangerous situations
- Routine business transactions
- Unimportant matters unrelated to relationships, the word of God, safety, business, laws civil and natural



# Sinful Assumption

- Dogmatic conclusions without facts in evidence
  - Prov. 29:1 - “He who is often rebuked, and hardens his neck, Will suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy.”
  - Heb. 3:8-11 - “Do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion, In the day of trial in the wilderness, 9 Where your fathers tested Me, tried Me, And saw My works forty years. 10 Therefore I was angry with that generation, And said, 'They always go astray in their heart, And they have not known My ways.' 11 So I swore in My wrath, 'They shall not enter My rest.”

# Sinful Assumption

- Pointless assumption
  - Prov. 18:13 - “He who answers a matter before he hears it, It is folly and shame to him.”
  - Judges 15:1-2 - “After a while, in the time of wheat harvest, it happened that Samson visited his wife with a young goat. And he said, Let me go in to my wife, into her room. But her father would not permit him to go in. 2 Her father said, I really thought that you thoroughly hated her; therefore I gave her to your companion. Is not her younger sister better than she? Please, take her instead.”

# Sinful Assumption

- Prideful assumption
  - 2Kings 5:9-14



# Sinful Assumption

- Assumption based on weak or malicious character
  - Gen. 45:3-5 - “Then Joseph said to his brothers, I am Joseph; does my father still live? But his brothers could not answer him, for they were dismayed in his presence. 4 And Joseph said to his brothers, Please come near to me. So they came near. Then he said: I am Joseph your brother, whom you sold into Egypt. 5 But now, do not therefore be grieved or angry with yourselves because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life.”
  - Psalm 50:21 - “These things you have done, and I kept silent; You thought that I was altogether like you; But I will rebuke you, And set them in order before your eyes.”

# Sinful Assumption

- Assumption of outcome without the Lord
  - Luke 12:16-20 - “Then He spoke a parable to them, saying: The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully. 17 And he thought within himself, saying, 'What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?' 18 So he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods. 19 'And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry. 20 But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?’”

# Sinful Assumption

- Assumption of outcome without the Lord
  - James 4:13-15 - “Come now, you who say, Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit; 14 whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away. 15 Instead you ought to say, If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that.”

# Three Characteristics Of Sinful Assumption

- Sinful assumption claims godhood (omniscience)
- Sinful assumption exalts the self by measuring himself against others' imagined faults.
- Sinful assumption claims God's prerogative of knowing the mind of another



# How To Overcome Sinful Assumption

- Realize it is sin
  - Repent, confess, and pray for forgiveness
  - 1John 1:8-9 - “If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”



# How To Overcome Sinful Assumption

- Remember that God is all-knowing and you are not
  - Leave knowing the minds of others to Him
  - If you cannot resist the urge to assume what others are thinking, get help from a mental health professional
  - When an assumption pops up in your mind, recognize it for what it is: a gossip seed



# How To Overcome Sinful Assumption

- Renew your mind through God's word daily
  - Phil. 4:6-9 - “Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; 7 and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. 8 Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy--meditate on these things. 9 The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you.”

# How To Overcome Sinful Assumption

- Remember that others are learning and growing in the faith just like you; be as compassionate toward them as you want them to be toward you
  - Matt. 7:12 - “Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.”
  - Gal. 5:13-15 - “For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. 14 For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. 15 But if you bite and devour one another, beware lest you be consumed by one another!”