

# Don't Assume

John 7:51 - "Does our law judge a man before it hears him and knows what he is doing?"

# Don't Assume

- Deut. 1:17 - “You shall not show partiality in judgment; you shall hear the small as well as the great; you shall not be afraid in any man's presence, for the judgment is God's. The case that is too hard for you, bring to me, and I will hear it.”
- Mark 3:20-22 - “Then the multitude came together again, so that they could not so much as eat bread. 21 But when His own people heard about this, they went out to lay hold of Him, for they said, ‘He is out of His mind.’ 22 And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem said, ‘He has Beelzebub, and, By the ruler of the demons He casts out demons.’”

# Don't Assume

- Assumption carries the same characteristics as gossip.
- Assumption communicates the credentials of a fool.

# Don't Assume

- “Assumptions are dangerous things to make, and like all dangerous things to make -- bombs, for instance -- if you make even the tiniest mistake you can find yourself in terrible trouble. Making assumptions simply means believing things are a certain way with little or no evidence that shows you are correct, and you can see at once how this can lead to terrible trouble.” (*Lemony Snicket, The Austere Academy*)

# Not All Assumptions Are Folly Or Sin

- Dangerous situations
- Routine situations and patterns
- Partial assumptions with facts in evidence
- In every case, dogmatism will change *reasonable* assumptions into folly or sin.

# Sinful Assumptions

- Dogmatic conclusions without facts in evidence
  - Prov. 18:1-2, 13, 17 - “A man who isolates himself seeks his own desire; He rages against all wise judgment. 2 A fool has no delight in understanding, But in expressing his own heart... 13 He who answers a matter before he hears it, It is folly and shame to him... 17 The first one to plead his cause seems right, Until his neighbor comes and examines him.”

# Sinful Assumptions

- Assumption based on random, unconnected fragments
  - Prov. 29:20 - “Do you see a man hasty in his words? There is more hope for a fool than for him.”
  - “My mind is made up; don’t confuse me with the facts.”

# Sinful Assumptions

- Prideful assumption
  - Prov. 19:9 - “A false witness will not go unpunished, and he who speaks lies shall perish.”
  - “That’s my story, and I’m sticking with it!”



# Sinful Assumptions

- Assumption based on a predilection of character
  - Prov. 14:15-16 - “The simple believes every word, But the prudent considers well his steps. 16 A wise man fears and departs from evil, But a fool rages and is self-confident.”
  - “They have the unique ability to listen to one story and understand another.” (*Pandora Poikilos, Excuse Me; My Brains Have Stepped Out*)

# Sinful Assumptions

- Assumption of an outcome without considering 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

- Assumption sets a person up as a god; he assumes he is omniscient.
- Assumption exalts the self over others by comparing others “projected” faults.
- Sinful assumption is a prognostication built on either ignorance or judgmentalism. If we can't read others' palms, how can we read their minds?
- “It is useless to attempt to reason a man out of a thing he was never reasoned into.” (*Jonathan Swift*)

# Ending Sinful Assumption

- Realize it is a sin and treat it accordingly.
  - Repent, confess, and fight the temptation to return to it.
  - Replace it with healthier ways of thinking.
- Filter each situation through the will of God, not our projections, prejudices, or expectations.
- Understand that our minds are just as susceptible to sin and error as those we judge by making assumptions.

# Ending Sinful Assumption

- Renew and refresh our minds through God's word daily.
  - Eph. 6:17 - “And take the helmet of salvation...” (The Adversary will attack our minds)
  - Rom. 12:2-3 - “And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. 3 For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.”
- The more time we spend with God, the more we come to think like Him.

# Ending Sinful Assumption

- Learn to recognize gossip bubbles popping up in our minds, and burst them the moment they appear.
- Realize the possibility that others may be more mature and spiritual than us; if we are constantly assuming others are sinful, there is something wrong with us. Get help.
- Understand that we will be as lost over sinful assumptions as we would be for stealing, murder, or adultery.

# Don't Assume

- The secular world understands that one must not assume the worst in others.
- “The arrow tipped with ill nature and malice is deadliest to him who sends it.” (*Prentice Mulford*)
- “A sound mind is good at salvage, at seeing that nothing is lost in others.” (*Laozi*)
- “When we seek to discover the good in others, we somehow bring out the best in ourselves.” (*Unknown*)

# Don't Assume

- Are we happy that God assumes the best in us?
- He knows that all of us have the capacity to overcome and abandon our sins and to develop and the ability rise above the human condition.
  - Rom. 5:8-9 - “But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.”



# Don't Assume

- John 3:16 - “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”
- John 1:12 - “But as many as received Him, to them He gave the power to become children of God, to those who believe in His name”
- The question becomes: Do we believe that about ourselves?