

Unspoken Assumptions

(Proverbs 18:13)

INTRODUCTION

Brethren, today we are addressing something subtle but powerful - a silent destroyer.

- Not adultery.
- Not witchcraft.
- Not open rebellion.

It does not shout. It does not fight openly. It hides behind thoughts, interpretations, and conclusions we never verified.

But something that silently destroys homes, ministries, companies, youth groups, committees, and friendships. It is called **Unspoken Assumptions**.

Proverbs 18:13 (NKJV) *“He who answers a matter before he hears it, it is folly and shame to him.”*

An assumption is a conclusion we arrive at without full evidence. It is formed without complete understanding.

An *unspoken* assumption is even more dangerous — because it is never clarified.

Unspoken assumptions are conclusions formed and never clarified.

Many crises in homes, ministries, businesses, youth groups, committees, marriages, and leadership teams are not caused by demons — they are caused by assumptions.

- We assumed.
- We interpreted.
- We concluded.
- But we never asked.

And what is not clarified becomes magnified.

And many of our conflicts are not because of evil intent — they are because of interpretational errors.

- We interpret silence as rejection.
- We interpret correction as hatred.
- We interpret delay as wickedness.
- We interpret busyness as pride.
- We interpret oversight as disrespect.
- We filled in the gaps — without facts.

We do not respond to what was said. We respond to what we *believe* was meant. *That is dangerous.*

In **1 Samuel 17:17-18**, David came to the battlefield in obedience to his father, Jesse. He was not there to prove anything; he was simply running an errand.

But in **verse 28**, his brother Eliab became angry and said: *“I know your pride and the insolence of your heart...”*

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Eliab assumed David's motive. He interpreted David's presence as pride and mischief.

Yet David had come in obedience, not arrogance. Eliab concluded without asking. He judged without verifying. He answered before hearing — exactly what **Proverbs 18:13** warns against.

This is the danger of assumption:

- It assigns motive where there was none.
- It misreads obedience as pride.
- It almost discourages destiny before it unfolds.

WHY DO WE ASSUME?

Assumptions are interpretations filtered through:

- Past wounds — we project yesterday into today.
- Insecurity - *And insecurity grows where clarification should have happened.*
- Pride — we believe our interpretation is correct
- Personality bias
- Lack of communication culture.
- Fear of confrontation.

But the Bible calls us into light. **Ephesians 4:15** says *speak the truth in love.*

Truth spoken in love prevents assumption from becoming division.

Young minds are also vulnerable to unspoken assumptions.

A teenager:

- "They laughed — it must be about me."
- "She didn't reply my message — she hates me." "I have been rejected."
- "I failed — I am useless."

Students assume:

- "Lecturer marked me down deliberately."
- "Friends excluded me intentionally."

Social media worsens assumptions: Seen ✓ but no reply. Last seen 2:15am. Online but silent.

Assumption produces insecurity. Many friendships collapse not because of offense — but interpretation.

The truth is: *immaturity interprets faster than it investigates.*

HOW IT AFFECTS LEADERS, WORKERS & MINISTRIES

Let me give you a real-life scenario. A boss has a habit of raising his voice.

- ✓ Not necessarily because he hates people.

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- ✓ Not necessarily because he is wicked.
- ✓ But that is how he learned to express urgency, authority, and seriousness.

He calls employees one by one and asks: *“What do you think is wrong in this company?”*

One employee gathers courage and says: *“Sir, you shout at people.”*

The next day, the boss comes in. For 30 minutes, he speaks softly. Almost whispering. He asks for files. He gives instructions calmly. Then he asks: *“Did I shout?”* They say, *“No, sir.”*

After 30 minutes, he goes back to shouting. One employee says quietly, *“I knew it. This will not last.”*

Now examine this carefully. The boss assumes: *“If I don’t raise my voice, I won’t be heard.”* *“Authority must be loud.”* *“Fear produces efficiency.”*

The employees assume: *“When he shouts, he is angry.”* *“If we share problems, he will attack us.”* *“Better to hide mistakes than report them.”*

The employee who withdraws may have grown up where shouting meant danger.

The result?

- Information is withheld.

- Creativity is suppressed.
- Trust is broken.
- People withdraw emotionally.

The boss thinks shouting produces control. But it actually produces concealment. The employees think silence produces safety. But it produces stagnation.

Both are reacting from history.

Unspoken assumptions are often historical reactions to present situations.

Unspoken assumptions on both sides. No real conversation. No mutual understanding. And this happens in many companies, in many homes, in many ministries.

Leaders assume:

- “They are not committed.”
- “They don’t respect authority.”
- “They are rebelling.”

Members assume:

- “Leadership is biased.”
- “Decisions are political.”
- “They don’t value us.”

1 Corinthians 13:5 says love “thinks no evil.” The Greek idea means: *love does not keep a mental record of wrong assumptions.*

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Yet many believers:

- Assume the leaders ignored them intentionally.
- Assume a leader prefers someone else.
- Assume someone did not greet them because they are disliked.

Committees assume:

- “Finance delayed intentionally.”
- “Coordinator sidelined us.”

HOW THIS AFFECTS HOMES

A husband assumes: *“She is disrespecting me.”* A wife assumes: *“He doesn’t value me.”*

A wife hears raised voice and interprets it as anger or disrespect. Soon she says: *“Why is it that everything I say offends you?”*

He responds: *“Why do you treat every response I give as if I’m angry?”*

Two different internal worlds. He thinks: *“I am just being expressive.”* She thinks: *“He is always upset.”*

Tone becomes weaponized. Neutral words sound hostile. And intimacy begins to die — not because of hatred, but because of interpretation

A teenager sees parents frown and assume: *“They are disappointed in me.”*

Parents assume: *“My child is stubborn.”* Children assume: *“My parents don’t understand me.”*

Unspoken assumptions create emotional distance.

Many marriages are cold not because of hatred — but because of unverified conclusions.

Satan does not need to attack loudly. He only needs you to assume silently.

WHY DO PEOPLE AVOID CLARIFICATION?

Ministries split not because of doctrine — but because of unspoken assumptions.

In *Acts 6*, there was murmuring because the Grecian widows felt neglected. It could have escalated. But the apostles clarified structure.

People avoid clarification because clarification feels risky. Many people dread one-on-one conversations. They say: *“If I bring it up, it will get worse.”*

But silence does not heal misunderstanding. It fertilizes it. Some say: *“I will just pray about it.”* But prayer is not a substitute for obedience.

Assumptions grow roots in the heart. *Clarification preserved unity. Assumption divides. Communication repairs.*

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Instead of **Matthew 18** — go and clarify — we practice “WhatsApp 18.”

We discuss with everyone except the person involved. **Proverbs 16:28**: “A whisperer separates chief friends.”

James 1:19 says: “Be swift to hear (hearing requires conversation), slow to speak, slow to wrath.”

Assumptions reverse that order:

- Slow to hear.
- Quick to conclude.
- Faster to react.

Some gather courage and say: “You always shout.” “You never listen.” “You are the problem.” Now the issue degenerates. Because accusation creates defense.

Healthy clarification sounds like: “When you raise your voice, I feel intimidated. I want to understand your intention.” That opens dialogue.

But pride prefers verdicts over conversations.

THE WAY OUT

Pray Before You React. Pray for humility before conversation. Pray before sending that message. Pray before leaving that group. Pray before withdrawing

from that ministry. Ask: “Lord, is this fact or my interpretation?”

Approach with exploration, not accusation. Seek Clarification before Conclusion. Ask: “Help me understand.” “Did you mean...?” “Can we clarify this?”

Choose understanding over being right. Understanding must be drawn out. Not guessed.

Separate facts from feelings.
Fact: He did not call.
Feeling: He does not care. Those are not the same.

Separate intent from impact. You may not intend harm — but impact still matters.

Create safe communication culture in homes, youth ministry, in committees, and in leadership teams.

CLOSING EXHORTATION

Brethren, many of the battles we think are spiritual attacks are interpretational errors.

We have allowed imagination to sit where communication should sit.

How many homes are cold because someone assumed? How many youths are distant because they interpreted wrongly? How many businesses are stagnant because fear of shouting suppresses truth? How many ministries are divided because

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people spoke to third parties instead of the person involved?

Before this week ends:

- Clarify one misunderstanding.
- Apologize for one wrong assumption.
- Ask one courageous question.
- Refuse to discuss someone you have not spoken to.
- Because maturity is not silence.
- Maturity is wise clarification.

May God deliver us from assumptions. May He give us courage for truth in love. May He restore what silent conclusions have damaged. In Jesus' Name, Amen.