

Presumptuous Sin

Introduction; We many times act presumptuously.

- A. This means we think too highly of ourselves and act without authority.
1. Presumptuous means, *'rude or arrogant: inconsiderate, disrespectful, or overconfident, especially in doing something when not entitled or qualified to do it'* —Microsoft® Encarta® Reference Library 2003.
 2. Presumptuous actions presume we are doing right when we have no real authority to believe this. Presumptuous behavior often involves arrogance, pride and selfishness.
 3. Acting presumptuously involves taking liberties we do not have. It means we think something is right when we have no real proof it is.
 4. *In 1983, a Mrs. Carson of Lake Kushaqua, N.Y. was laid out in her coffin, presumed dead of heart disease. As mourners watched, she suddenly sat up. Her daughter dropped dead of fright. Assumptions, no matter how reasonable and well founded they may seem to us, do not make something true, correct, or factual* —example from the internet.
 5. Many act presumptuously today. They do what they believe to be right because that is what they want to do.
 6. Many times a person is not being mean or evil in acting presumptuously. He really thinks he is doing good. Yet he has no right to do what he does.
- B. Many act presumptuously in religion.
1. They presume to do things for God or in His name that He has not commanded. They think they are right but are acting without authority.
 2. Some are self-willed. They are arrogant and think too highly of themselves and their opinions.
 3. Others are sincere but foolish. They think what they want to do is alright because they really think it is good to do.
 4. Both are acting presumptuously because both are acting without the word of God. Their motives and hearts are different but their actions are the same.
 5. The Bible warns us against presumptuous sin. Motives do not make wrong-doing right.
- C. We will consider presumptuous sin today.

I. David warns against acting presumptuously.

- A. David is one of the very unique characters in the Bible.
1. David was a man after God's heart. He was a prophet and wrote many of the Psalms the Jews sang in worship to God. He did God's will in his generation. He was a type of the Messiah and the greatest king of Israel.
 2. *Acts 13:22 "And when He had removed him, He raised up for them David as king, to whom also He gave testimony and said, 'I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after My own heart, who will do all My will.'"*
 3. *2 Sam 23:1 Now these are the last words of David. Thus says David the son of Jesse; Thus says the man raised up on high, The anointed of the God of Jacob, And the sweet psalmist of Israel:*
 4. *Acts 13:36 "For David, after he had served his own generation by the will of God, fell asleep, was buried with his fathers, and saw corruption;"*
 5. This does not mean that David was perfect nor that he did not commit great sins. He did. However he always repented and turned back to God.
- B. In Psalm 19 David asks for help against presumptuous sin.
1. Psalm 19 has three parts. He praises the law of Jehovah and expresses his repentance and desire for forgiveness.
 - a. Part 1; Verses 1-6 — **The Book of Nature**; Nature declares God's existence and glory. Nature says, "He Is" and that, "He is Great." We should see the Lord in nature.
 - b. Part 2; Verses 6-11 — **The Book of the Law**; God's revealed His holiness and purity to men in His word. The Bible tells us how to be holy and pure as well.

- c. Part 3; Verses 12-14 — **Plea for Forgiveness and Understanding**; David is a sinner and needs God's grace and help. His desire is to be pleasing to Jehovah.
2. **Psalm 19:1-6**; The heavens declare God's glory throughout the whole earth. There is no excuse not to recognize there is a Creator. Jehovah has clearly revealed Himself to the world by what He has made.
 3. *Rom 1:20-21 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, 21 because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.*
 4. **Psalm 9:-11**; The book of the Law of God blesses man greatly. David praises the word of God as much as anything can be praised. David loved God's word and strove to keep it. God's word did many things;
 - a. Vs 7; Revived the soul —converted it
 - b. Made wise the simple —or naive
 - c. Vs 8; It caused the heart to rejoice
 - d. It enlightened the eyes
 - e. Vs 9; It endures forever
 - f. It is completely righteous and holy
 - g. Vs 10; It is more desirable than gold and honey
 - h. Vs 11; It warms God's servants —makes them feel better.
 - i. It promises great reward for those who follow it; both in this life and afterwards.
 5. *Psa 119:97-99 Oh, how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day. 98 You, through Your commandments, make me wiser than my enemies; For they are ever with me. 99 I have more understanding than all my teachers, For Your testimonies are my meditation.*
 6. We need to have David's love and appreciation for the revealed word of God. We should study the Bible often and meditate on it daily. We must let it direct our footsteps.
 7. The heavens declare God's glory. However they do not reveal God's law. Only His word does this. Therefore we see proof of God's existence in nature. We then learn about Him in His word.

C. David strove to keep God's word.

1. **Psalm 19:12-14**; David then asks for forgiveness and direction. David cannot make it through life on his own. He needs God's help and direction.
2. **Vs 12**; Who can understand God's errors? David is not saying God makes mistakes. He is saying that if God did, who would know? God is so much greater than we are.
3. David has secret sins or faults. This are due to his imperfect understanding of all things. These are not sins he is hiding but sins he is not aware of.
4. Vs 13; David was afraid of presumptuous sins. He was a great king. It would be easy to presume to assume his will was the will of God. Presumptuous sins must not rule over him or he could not be blameless.
5. David had acted presumptuously when he counted the people in 1 Chronicles 21 —see also Samuel 24. His nation suffered greatly when God killed 70,000 in one day. David did not want this to happen again.
6. *Matt 6:12-13 And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors. 13 And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.*
7. **Vs 14**; David's prayer is that his actions, his speech and even the thoughts of his heart will be acceptable. This is what made him a man after God's own heart.

D. Now lets consider **presumptuous** sins.

1. Presumptuous sins are often sins of boldness, pride and arrogance. We do what we think is the right thing to do even though the Bible does not command it.
2. A person may have good intentions when acting presumptuously. However he is still sinning. This is a serious sin.
3. *Num 15:30-31 But the person who does anything presumptuously, whether he is native-born or a stranger, that one brings reproach on the LORD, and he shall be cut off from among his people. 31 Because he has despised the word of the LORD, and has broken His commandment, that person shall be completely cut off; his guilt shall be upon him."*
4. To be 'cut off' could refer to being cast out or banished. Most likely it means to be killed. Those who acted arrogantly were to be stoned. This is how serious it was.
5. *2 Pet 2:9-10 ...then the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment, 10 and especially those who walk according to the flesh in the*

lust of uncleanness and despise authority. They are presumptuous, self-willed. They are not afraid to speak evil of dignitaries,

6. Being presumptuous is being self-willed and walking by sight and not by faith — Cor 5:7. Again we see how serious it is since the ones who walk this way are destined for punishment.

E. We see the seriousness of acting presumptuously in religion.

II. Now we will consider what presumption involves.

A. Presumption involves two things.

1. First it is based on God needing our help. It believes that God has not clearly and completely revealed Himself.
2. Presumption believes that the Bible is not enough by itself. Man needs to help God by his creed books, catechisms, church manuals and traditions.
3. The Jews had developed many traditions by Jesus' day. These were attempts to help God by explaining and defining His word. Yet they usually went too far.
4. *Mark 7:1-5 Then the Pharisees and some of the scribes came together to Him, having come from Jerusalem. 2 Now when they saw some of His disciples eat bread with defiled, that is, with unwashed hands, they found fault. 3 For the Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they wash their hands in a special way, holding the tradition of the elders. 4 When they come from the marketplace, they do not eat unless they wash. And there are many other things which they have received and hold, like the washing of cups, pitchers, copper vessels, and couches. 5 Then the Pharisees and scribes asked Him, "Why do Your disciples not walk according to the tradition of the elders, but eat bread with unwashed hands?"*
5. The Jews thought they needed to help God out. They defined how far a person could walk on the Sabbath day — Act 1:12. They declared people unclean if they did not wash their hands before eating. They did many other things to help God out. Jesus condemned them for this.
6. *Matt 15:3 He answered and said to them, "Why do you also transgress the commandment of God because of your tradition?"*
7. God does not need our help. He can make His own laws and He can reveal them in such a way that true believers will understand.
8. *Rom 11:33-34 Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out! 34 "For who has known the mind of the LORD? Or who has become His counselor?"*
7. *1 Cor 1:25 Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.*
8. God does not need our help — Isa 40:13, 14. Yet many presume He does and so they help Him out by making laws for the church and telling Christians how to be pure before God.

B. Presumption also involves thinking we are able to help God.

1. Presumption involves second of all thinking we are strong enough or wise enough to be able to help God.
2. David asked in Psalm 19:12, "**Who can understand His errors?**" If God makes a mistake how can we know? Paul said that God's foolishness is wiser than men's wisdom. God's weakness is stronger than man's strength. Paul was not saying God is foolish nor weak but that man cannot know.
3. *1 Cor 10:21-22 You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons; you cannot partake of the Lord's table and of the table of demons. 22 Or do we provoke the Lord to jealousy? Are we stronger than He?*
4. We are not stronger than God nor are we wiser than Him. Therefore we need to be very careful we do not presume to act for Him.
5. **Genesis 15 & 16;** Abraham acted presumptuously when he tried to help God with his offspring. He adopted a servant born in his house. Then he had a son through his wife's maid-servant. He was wrong both times.
6. *Matt 16:21-23 From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day. 22 Then Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, "Far be it from You, Lord; this shall not happen to You!" 23 But He turned and said to Peter, "Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men."*

7. *Acts 26:9 "Indeed, I myself thought I must do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth."*
 8. Peter presumed to counsel Jesus. He was wrong. Paul presumed to persecute God's enemies. He was wrong.
 9. King Saul presumed to make the sacrifice instead of waiting for Samuel —1 Sam 15. He was rejected as God's king. Nadab and Abihu presumed that fire from another source would please God —Lev 10. They were killed. Israel presumed to take the land after God said they would wander in the wilderness 40 years —Num 14:40-45. They were defeated.
 10. *Deut 18:20-22 'But the prophet who presumes to speak a word in My name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die.' 21 And if you say in your heart, 'How shall we know the word which the LORD has not spoken?'; 22 when a prophet speaks in the name of the LORD, if the thing does not happen or come to pass, that is the thing which the LORD has not spoken; the prophet has spoken it presumptuously; you shall not be afraid of him."*
 11. Those who preach and teach must especially be careful to say only what God's word teaches and not try to help Jehovah out —Jam 3:1. We are not stronger nor wiser than Him.
- C. We need to learn to limit ourselves to what God has revealed to us.
1. We must all recognize that we are mere men and must depend on God. We are not wise enough to direct our own pathway through this life.
 2. *Jer 10:23 O LORD, I know the way of man is not in himself; It is not in man who walks to direct his own steps.*
 3. *Prov 14:12 There is a way that seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death.*
 4. *Prov 20:24 A man's steps are of the LORD; How then can a man understand his own way?*
 5. Since we cannot understand our own way, we must depend on God. We must limit ourselves to what He says and that only. We cannot use our own wisdom in serving Him.
 6. *Matt 7:21-23 "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. 22 Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' 23 And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'"*
 7. Many feel God has not told us enough to do all His will. They think God has given man the freedom to make at least some of his own laws in religion. This is wrong.
 8. *2 Pet 1:2-3 Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, 3 as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue,*
 9. We must follow the all things God has given us in His word. There is no additions to it, no deletions from it, no appendixes and no room for improvement. There can be no changes made to the law of God given in the first century.
 10. God tells us the way to go. The Bible is directions for our footsteps. It shows us the way to heaven. We need to follow it without question.
 11. *Matt 7:13-14 "Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. 14 "Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.*
- D. We must not presume to help God out by doing what He has not commanded.

Conclusion; We often act presumptuously.

- A. Men do this in life and they especially do this in religion.
1. Presumptuous sin is wrong. We must be very careful we are doing God's revealed will and not presuming to do something God has not asked for.
 2. We are not stronger than God and we are not wiser than Him. He does not need our help and we could not help Him if he needed help.
- B. Men make many presumptions in religion.
1. They do this when they add to God's word, take away from it or change it in any way. Men's creed

books, manuals and traditions are presumptuous.

2. Men say we are saved by **'faith only'**. However God's word says this is not true. It tells us to believe, repent and be baptized to be saved.
3. When we believe we turn from our sins and repent. We then have them washed away in baptism so we can become sinless children of God.
5. *Mark 16:15-16 And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. 16 He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned."*
6. *Acts 2:38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."*
7. *Acts 22:16 'And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.'*
8. *Rom 6:3-7 Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? 4 Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. 5 For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection, 6 knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. 7 For he who has died has been freed from sin.*

C. If the church can help anyone in their service to the Lord please let us.