

## How Many Does It Take?

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by Bob Sarrett

### **Is one sin a sin?**

How many killings does it take for one to be a murderer? How many idols must be worshiped for one to be an idolater? How many “affairs” does it take for one to be a fornicator? How many violations of God’s law does it take for one to be a sinner? The answer to these and many other questions of like nature is simple: **JUST ONE!**

But oh, how we are prone to rationalize! We have a tendency to be in agreement with this until it comes to something of which we are guilty. We deceive ourselves into thinking that just one “mistake” does not mean that we have transgressed the law of God. We say to ourselves, “What is wrong with telling one little white lie? How can just one lie make me a liar?” And thus we attempt to convince ourselves that everything is all right.

But regardless of what we may be telling ourselves, it only takes one! When we tell one lie, we are guilty of lying. When we take one thing that does not belong to us, we are guilty of stealing. If, on just one occasion, we willingly refuse to assemble when the saints have gathered together for the purpose of worshiping God and studying from His Word, we are guilty of forsaking the assembling of the saints. Whenever we violate the laws of God, we are guilty of sin, even if we have only done it once! “But if you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one point, he has become guilty of all” (James 2:9-10).

We need to stop deceiving ourselves! We must come to the realization that when we fail to obey God, whether it involves doing something He has prohibited, or not doing that which He has commanded, we have sinned against Him and we need to make it right. When Simon had tried to purchase the power to impart the Holy Spirit to others, he was told by Peter: “May your silver perish with you, because you thought you could obtain the gift of God with your money! You have no part or portion in this matter, for your heart is not right before God. Therefore repent of this wickedness of yours, and pray the Lord that if possible, the intention of your heart may be forgiven you. For I see that you are in the gall of bitterness and in the bondage of iniquity” (Acts 8:20-23). We, too, need to repent and pray the Lord!

***via Traders’ Point Church of Christ  
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