

## JUST ONCE

Temptation is something we must deal with our entire lives and I believe one of the biggest downfalls in heeding to these temptations is the just once attitude. Satan would like for us to believe that just once will have no bearing on our soul salvation. With this attitude many will make the determination to watch a movie or a television show realizing it is filled with profanity and justify it by saying something such as “they only say the really bad word just once.” Along those same lines many times a decision is made to look upon someone that may be dressed immodestly, whether it be in a magazine, in a movie or simply in public and the rationale for this is it is O.K. to look as long you do not touch and after all I only did it once. What about when were tempted to lie just once, to get me out of this hot spot I’ve created for myself? What about greed? What about covetousness? What about idolatry, putting something before God, just once? We must ask, how many times must a movie use the Lords name in vain for it to be enough? How many times must we look at immodesty for us to lust? Christ says in **Matthew 5:32** “**whosoever looks upon a woman to lust after her has committed adultery with her already in his heart.**” The Apostle Paul instructs Timothy in **2nd Timothy 2: 22** “**to flee youthful lust,**” to run away, or to take off. **1st Thessalonians 5:22** Paul tells those in Thessalonica to “**abstain from all appearances of evil.**” Is watching a movie that profanes the name of God Almighty abstaining from evil? Is being dishonest, greedy, and idolatrous only one time abstaining from evil? Is looking on another that is not your spouse in a lustful way fleeing from youthful lust? Are we preventing ourselves from committing adultery with some one in our heart? Satan says just once. When were faced with the temptation of lust, whether it be actually committing the act or simply entertaining the thought we need to run from it and do whatever it takes to remove that lust from our minds. If they’re not our husband or wife we are not at liberty to engage in that sexual activity and we are not at liberty to contemplate those thoughts in our mind. As Christians we must not fill our minds with the immorality and filth of movies, television shows and magazines that portray and endorse sexual immorality. We must not put ourselves in compromising positions, not even once. What about our attendance? When we are tempted to miss just once. Just this one time because I really want to do this and eventually instead of missing just once we only attend just once, if we attend at all. Just once turns into, only if there’s not something I deem more important. Satan says just once. Our answer, we follow the example of Christ. We determine that the number 1 priority in our life is going to be carrying out the Fathers will. Because just once, may be the one time that cost us our soul.

*Jay Dixon*