

3ABN SABBATH SCHOOL PANEL

012 - Monday – March 17, 2025

THE TWO GREATEST SINS

According to Jesus Himself, the two greatest commandments are love for God and love for one another. And carrying out these commands involves sacrifices that tangibly show love to others, which is what following in the footsteps of Jesus is really about.

Now, if the **two greatest commandments are love for God and love for others**, what are the two greatest sins?

When Idolatry takes the place of love for God and mankind, it eclipses the blessing that comes along with adherence to these two great precepts.

The Old Testament continually emphasizes the importance of love for God above all (see *Deut. 6:5*). This is closely related to the great sin of idolatry, which is the opposite of love for God.

Deuteronomy 6:5 (NKJV) “You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.”

**According to the prophet Zechariah in this passage, what does God decry?
How does it and the sin of idolatry relate to the two great commandments?**

Zechariah 7:9-12 (NKJV) “Thus says the LORD of hosts: ‘Execute true justice, show mercy and compassion Everyone to his brother. (10) Do not oppress the widow or the fatherless, The alien or the poor. Let none of you plan evil in his heart Against his brother.’ (11) But they refused to heed, shrugged their shoulders, and stopped their ears so that they could not hear. (12) Yes, they made their hearts like flint, refusing to hear the law and the words which the LORD of hosts had sent by His Spirit through the former prophets. Thus great wrath came from the LORD of hosts.”

1. Execution of True Justice
2. Oppression of the Widow or the Fatherless
3. Mercy and Compassion to each other
4. Do not plan evil in the heart against your brother

1 John 4:20-21 (NKJV) “If someone says, “I love God,” and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen? (21) And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God must love his brother also.”

The **second Great commandment** requires of us to deal justly with others. Each of the last six Commandments relate to **justice and mercy to others**.

The violation of the **Two Greatest Commandments** propagates the **Two Greatest Sins**.

1. **THE GREATEST DEBT:** Romans 13:8 (NKJV) “Owe no one anything except to love one another, for he who loves another has fulfilled the law.”
2. **THE GREATEST EVIDENCE:** 1 John 3:14 (NKJV) “We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love *his* brother abides in death.”
3. **THE GREATEST OBLIGATION:** Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 (KJV) “(13) Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. (14) For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.”
4. **THE GREATEST RESPONSIBILITY:** Matthew 25:40 (NKJV) “And the King will answer and say to them, “Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did *it* to one of the least of these My brethren, you did *it* to Me.”
5. **THE GREATEST SACRIFICE:** John 15:13 (NKJV) “Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for his friends.”
6. **THE GREATEST HUMILITY:** Mark 10:43 (NKJV) “Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you shall be your servant.”
7. **THE GREATEST SIN:** John 19:11 (NKJV) “Jesus answered, “You could have no power at all against Me unless it had been given you from above. Therefore the one who delivered Me to you has the greater sin.”
8. **THE GREATEST LOVE:** John 3:16 (NKJV) “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.”
9. **THE GREATEST JOY:** 3 John 1:4 (NKJV) “I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.”