

NINTH

Cutting out of our lives, everything that defiles us, or takes us away from Christ
- *Matthew 18:8-9*

Wherefore if thy hand or thy foot offend thee, cut them off, and cast them from thee: it is better for thee to enter into life halt or maimed, rather than having two hands or two feet to be cast into everlasting fire.

And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: it is better for thee to enter into life with one eye, rather than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire.

Jesus' words signify the kind of zeal we need to have against sin; a vehement zeal, to the extent where we desire to maim our own bodies in order to avoid sinning or yielding to that temptation. It makes us really cry in desperation for the Lord to help us overcome our weaknesses that cause us to sin. However, sometimes we do need to cut things off, or literally get rid of it, out of our lives; this may be a lifestyle choice, a habit, a friend, a tradition, a family member. It may be emotionally and mentally painful, but if that thing or person is causing us to sin or causing a separation from our Jesus, we need to get rid of it.

