

Passages that may be confusing

Matthew 18:8-9

*“8 If your hand or your foot causes you to sin cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life maimed or crippled than to have two hands or two feet and be thrown into eternal fire.
9 And if your eye causes you to sin, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into the fire of hell.”*

Jesus offers a radical illustration to press home the seriousness of preserving a saving faith at any cost. Jesus is not teaching self-mutilation, for even that a blind man can lust. The point is that we should deal as drastically with sin as necessary.” Ultimately, Jesus’ instructions are impossible to fulfill for a Christian. We need a Savior for these sins. If one is attempted to cut off one’s sinful limbs in order to cleanse oneself, the process of self-mutilation would be endless. Before you cripple or blind yourself, however, realize that no member of your body can be responsible for causing you to sin.