

## THANK YOU FOR JOINING US TODAY!

Thank you for joining us today. This is a short note to let you know that we know what you are thinking: It is hot and cramped in this room. We want to acknowledge with you that yes, the front room is full, the kids rooms are full, and it can get warm. We are working on alleviating this right now by building our own building on the land just north of us.

There is a lot that goes into the process of Element having a permanent home, but we hope that today you are first drawn to Jesus before you are overwhelmed by anything else. If it gets too hot, we may hand out popsicles to help you cool off and give you a sugar rush. If you would like a service that has open seats (and is cooler), you are invited to our 8:15 am service. Please understand that all of these “challenges” are because of our love for Jesus, people, and growth that has come quickly. These are good things. We hope you will stay as we work to make more room for you to be part of the good thing Jesus is doing here. If you would like more information about our building process or how you can participate, you can visit: [www.elementroots.org](http://www.elementroots.org).

- The Element Team

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

### PUMPKIN KILLING!

**TODAY FROM 1:30-4:30pm**

at Orcutt Hill/Newlove Picnic Grounds.

Grab a map with directions on a communion table

### MEN'S BREAKFAST

**Saturday, November 12th 8am**

All Men are invited to come here at Element.

### HOLIDAY BAZAAR

**November 12th**

9:30-3pm

Come shop for your Holidays and help support eMoms! Ministry.

### AGAPE THANKSGIVING DINNERS

**Sunday, November 20th**

RSVP for a dinner by emailing:  
[connect@ourelement.org](mailto:connect@ourelement.org)

### HAVE QUESTIONS?

**Do you have a *What in the World?* question you'd like us to answer?**

**Ask us at: [www.ourelement.org/what?](http://www.ourelement.org/what?)  
or via this QR Code with your phone:**



MARK 9:45  
MARK 9:42-50  
MATTHEW 5:28-29  
MARK 9:38  
MATTHEW 19:14  
JEREMIAH 7:31  
2 KINGS 23:10  
ISAIAH 66:24  
MICAH 6:8  
LUKE 16:19-31  
ROMANS 12:1  
JAMES 1:14

# WHAT! — IN THE — WORLD?

## THREE

## DISMEMBERMENT THEOLOGY

— MARK 9:42-50 —

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## DISMEMBERMENT THEOLOGY

— MARK 9:42-50 —

If you have never read the Bible or been to a church and heard the words of Jesus in Mark 9, you will probably be very confused when Jesus says to cut off your hand or gouge out your eye. Jesus then goes on to say it is better to lose a limb or an eye than to have our body burn in Hell...which makes this radical reaction “cutting off of body parts” seem quite sensible.

In these verses, Jesus is talking about discipleship, eternal life, and our present physical life. The word translated “hell” is *gehenna* (it is a Greek form of the Hebrew words *gê hinnōm* which meant “Valley of Hinnom”). Hinnom was the valley along the south side of the city of Jerusalem, which was used in Old Testament times for human sacrifices to the pagan god Molech. In 2 Kings 23:10 King Josiah put a stop to this dreadful practice and the Valley of Hinnom came to be used as a place where human excrement and rubbish, including animal carcasses, were disposed of and burned. The fire that was in *gehenna* never went out, and the worms never died because it had so much to consume. Eventually it became a symbol for the place of divine punishment.

When we read the main thrust of Jesus’ words in these verses, He is talking about how important it is to enter into life that is TRUE life. When enter into this true life, we must also look deeply at our own lives and root out the things that drive us to sin. In these verses sin is connected to physical things like the hand (v. 43), foot (v. 45), and the eye (v. 47). For us this could entail our computer usage, how we spend our money, how we spend our time, and how easily we can be offended because we see ourselves as being the center of our own universe.

Jesus is not demanding the cutting off of our body parts; He is calling us to the cessation of the sinful activities that we get ourselves into by what we run to, what we see and fixate on, and we do with our hands. It is a euphemism to say that radical spiritual surgery of our hearts is demanded because what is at stake is our life.

### INTRODUCTION

All sin can be an act of commission (committing sin) or omission (seeing what should be done but turning away from our responsibility). These are the paths of sin that Jesus tells us to avoid at any cost. What do we do to do? Cut off our hands? Cut off our legs? Pluck out our eyes? Save ourselves the pain and just give up and end it all? Of course not. Jesus is calling us to be aware of the things that can cause us to stumble – the things that can pull us away from God.

### DISCUSSION

If you had to lose a body part, which one would you choose? Why?

### EXPLANATION – Read Mark 9:43-47

What things in your life are most prone to remove your eyes from God?

What good things do you focus on too much?

What bad things do you focus on too much?

### APPLICATION

*J Goebel writes, “It is understanding that we can be just as guilty for a system of injustice from which I benefit as if I was personally stalking the vulnerable.”* He means that by supporting a system that hurts others, even if we do not do it ourselves, can be just as bad.

What things do you support, or give your money to, that are hurting someone else?

Are there areas you purposefully don’t look too deeply into because you don’t want to have to give something up?

### MISSION

Are there things that you could amputate in your life that would enable you to love and serve your neighbors better?

Is there a way for you to be a better example by amputation in your life?