

Gospel Applied : Inside-Out Transformation

A Biblical Model for Lasting Change

Introduction

The outcome-based objective of this [module] is to show how the Gospel creates lasting change by destroying idols and replacing them with a new heart motivation.

1. The focus of this [module] is on heart _____, not external behavior.
2. Inside-out change is _____ change. The motivations of our heart are changed, leading to new behaviors.
3. Outside-in change is _____ (or religious) change. External behavior changes, but the motivations of the heart remain unchanged.

PART ONE: THE GOSPEL

“The gospel is not just the way to enter the kingdom of God, but it is the fundamental dynamic for living the whole Christian life. The gospel is not just the ABCs of the Christian life; it is the A-Z. We never get beyond the gospel in our Christian life to something more advanced. We are not justified by the gospel and then sanctified by obedience, but the gospel is the way we grow and are renewed. It is not just the minimum required doctrine necessary to enter the kingdom, but the way we make all progress in the kingdom. So the key to continual and deeper spiritual growth is the continual re-discovery of the gospel and how to orient every part of our life around it.”

I. What is the gospel?

“By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as an expert builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should be careful how he builds. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ.”

- 1 Corinthians 3:10, 11

- The gospel is a _____.

“Jesus Christ lived the life we should have lived and died the death we should have died as our substitute so that God can receive us not on our record or for our sake, but on Jesus’ record and for His sake.”

- The gospel is a _____.

“We are more wicked and flawed than we ever dared believe and more loved and affirmed than we ever dared believe.”

2. What is the _____ to the gospel and why is it so appealing?

“You unthinking and foolish Galatians! Who has put the evil eye on you? Have you taken leave of your senses? For it’s obvious that you no longer have the crucified Jesus in clear focus. His sacrifice on the cross was certainly set before you clearly enough. Let me ask you this one question: How did your new life begin? Was it by working your heads off to please God? Or was it by hearing and believing God’s Message? Are you going to continue this insanity? For only crazy people would think they could complete by their own efforts what was begun by God. If you weren’t smart enough or strong enough or good enough to start it, how do you suppose you could finish it?”

- Galatians 3

- The gospel insults us by saying that we are too _____ and too _____ to obey or follow God.
- We are not justified by the gospel and the _____ by obedience, but the gospel is the way we grow and are renewed.

3. Why must we preach the gospel to ourselves every day?

- Even though we understand enough of the Gospel to be _____, the actual way our heart works is not immediately changed.

“The gospel is the solution to every problem, the key to every closed door, and the power through every barrier. Every part of our life has to be transformed piece by piece by more deeply reflecting on, believing in, and applying the Gospel.”

- All our problems come from a lack of _____ the Gospel and applying it to specific areas of our life.

“The gospel is the only thing that will tell us what is really wrong with us, it is the only thing that will give us real answers to fix our problems, and it is the only thing that will give us the power to do what is right.”

4. How do we ORIENT our life around the gospel through faith and repentance?

Alternative #1: The _____ Approach.

Sounds like: “The Bible says anger is both _____ and _____.”
 Solution: “_____”
 Source: The _____.

Assumption:
 If a Christian _____, he can overcome any problem.

Alternative #2: The _____ Approach.

Sounds like: “Your _____ was angry: you learned it from him.”
 Solution: “You need to be _____.”
 Source: The _____.

Assumption:
 If a Christian gets enough _____, he can overcome any problem.

Alternative #3: The _____ Approach.

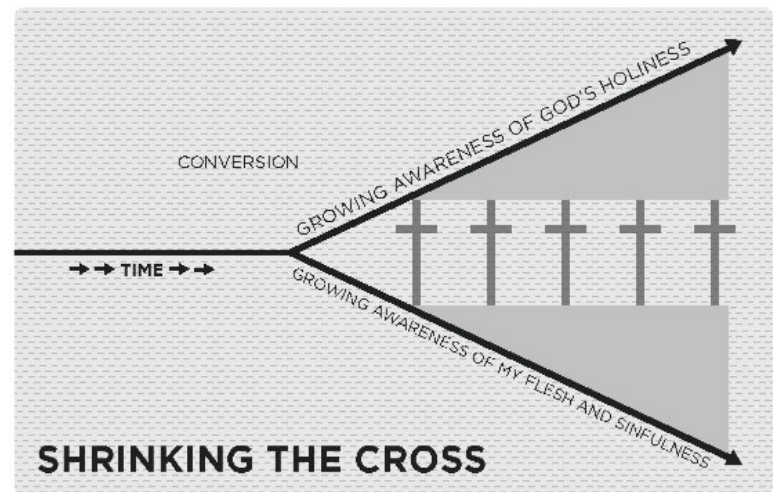
Sounds like: “There is something in the gospel you have failed to _____, apply, or believe.”
 Solution: “Understand, apply, and believe the gospel.”
 Source: The _____.

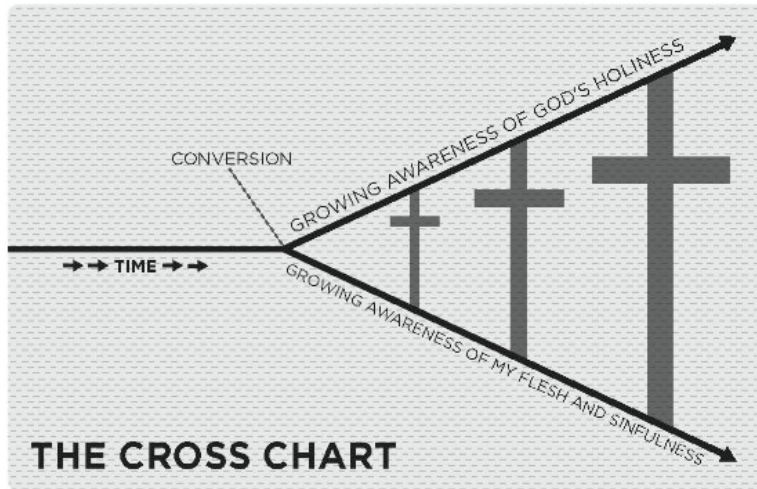
Assumption:
 There is something at that moment you want more than Jesus - a _____.

4. Gospel repentance creates a new _____ in our relationship to God, others, and the world.

Behavior vs. Motivation

The Gospel Grid





PART TWO: IDOLATRY

The Origin of Idolatry (Romans 1:20-25)

The first chapter of Romans is Paul’s summary statement of fallen man. In this section, he reveals that idolatry is the essence of every problem in the world. We discover three important facts here about idolatry.

1. Man’s _____ sin is refusing to worship God.

“The principle crime of the human race, the highest guilt charged upon the world, the whole procuring cause of judgment, is idolatry.”

- Tertullian

2. The human heart must _____ something.

3. We give our _____ to what we worship.

The Definition of Idolatry

1. The simplest definition of an idol is anything that takes God’s _____.

“At the root of all problems is the elevation of some created thing to the place of ultimate worship.”

- Tim Keller

2. An idol is any created thing that we inflate in our heart to _____ as God. It is something other than Him that we set our hearts on; it is whatever motivates or masters us.

3. An idol is something we rely on to provide _____, meaning, security, and joy. It presumes to provide all of the things that only God Himself can actually provide.

4. An idol can be a _____, a physical object, a person, an activity, a role, an institution, a hope, an idea, a pleasure, a hero—anything that can substitute for God.

5. Idols _____ the heart and mind so that a man cannot see how foolish he is.

6. Idols create false _____ of success/failure, happiness/sadness, and value/worthlessness and then enslave people through those definitions.

The Prevalence of Idolatry in the Bible

Old Testament Idols

1. From Adam’s initial treason to the final pages of Revelation, idolatry is the most pervasive sin in the Scriptures.

“The whole Bible is written as a full-scale assault on idolatry.”

- Ligon Duncan

2. The _____ of the Ten Commandments forbids idolatry.

“You shall have no other gods before me.”
- Exodus 20:3-6

New Testament Idols

Idolatry looks different in the New Testament, but it is just as pervasive.

Present Day Idols

Our family, culture, and class leads us to various idols by example and direct appeal.

There are two basic types of idols: primary and secondary.

- Primary idols are deep-rooted motivational _____. There are at least four of them:
 - **Approval** (affirmation, love, acceptance, intimacy)
 - **Comfort** (pleasures, freedom, lack of care/stress, rest, play, fun)
 - **Control** (order, security, certainty, discipline)
 - **Power** (success, winning, influence, responsibility)
- Secondary idols are specific _____, people, activities, etc. that are closer to the surface of our life.

Idolatry	Statement “I get my identity, security, and value if...”
Relationship	...Mr. or Ms. ‘Right’ is in love with me.”
Work	...I am highly productive and successful.”
Religion	...I am adhering to my religion’s moral codes.”
Image	...I have a particular look or body image.”
Family	...my children and/or parents are happy with me.”
Achievement	...I am being recognized for my accomplishments.”
Helping	...people are dependent on me.”
Racial	...my ethnicity is ascendant and recognized as superior.”
Inner Ring	...a particular social or professional group lets me in.”
Suffering	...I am hurting; only then do I feel noble or worthy of love.”

How to Identify Idols

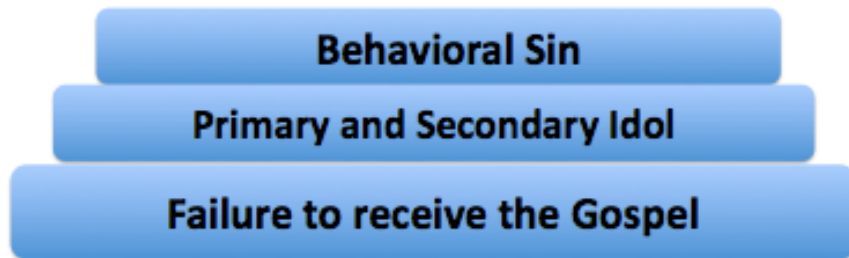
1. We can identify the idols in our hearts through the _____ emotions.

- _____ is often a sign that something I want is threatened.
- _____ is often directed toward someone or something that stopped me from getting what I wanted.
- _____ is often a sign that someone is trying to take from me the thing I want.
- _____ is often the result of someone blocking me from the thing I want.
- _____ is often the result of someone withholding what I want.

2. We can identify the idols in our heart by asking the following diagnostic questions.

- What is my greatest nightmare? What do I worry about the most?
- What, if I failed at or lost, would cause me to feel that I did not even want to live?
- What do I rely on or comfort myself with when things go bad or get difficult?
- What do I think most about? What preoccupies my thoughts?
- What prayer, unanswered, would make me angry toward God?

Sinception



How to Destroy Idols

All change in the Kingdom of God has three components:
Truth, Repentance, and Faith.

1. The first step to destroying idols in your life is the **Truth** that comes from the Word of God applied to your heart by the Holy Spirit.

2. The second step to destroying idols in your life is **Repentance-Digging Down.**

- For repentance to be effective, it must be specific. Name the idols and repent for their specific effect upon your life.
 - Recognize how _____ they are to help you.
 - Recognize how _____ they are to you.
 - Recognize how _____ they are to God.

3. The third step to destroying idols in your life is **Faith-Looking Up.**
- Faith is acknowledging the _____ Christ has made to satisfy the desire of your heart that the idol was trying to fulfill.
 - Faith is expressed through _____ God for the specific promises He has made to you that satisfy what your heart was looking for in the idol.

4. Digging Down (Repenting) and Looking Up (Believing) is a _____ that is fueled by meditation on God's Word.

- Find verses that promise you what the idols can never give you. Meditate and confess them daily until the power of God's Word destroys the influence the idols had in your life.

For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. ¹² It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, ¹³ while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ.

- Titus 2:11,12,13

