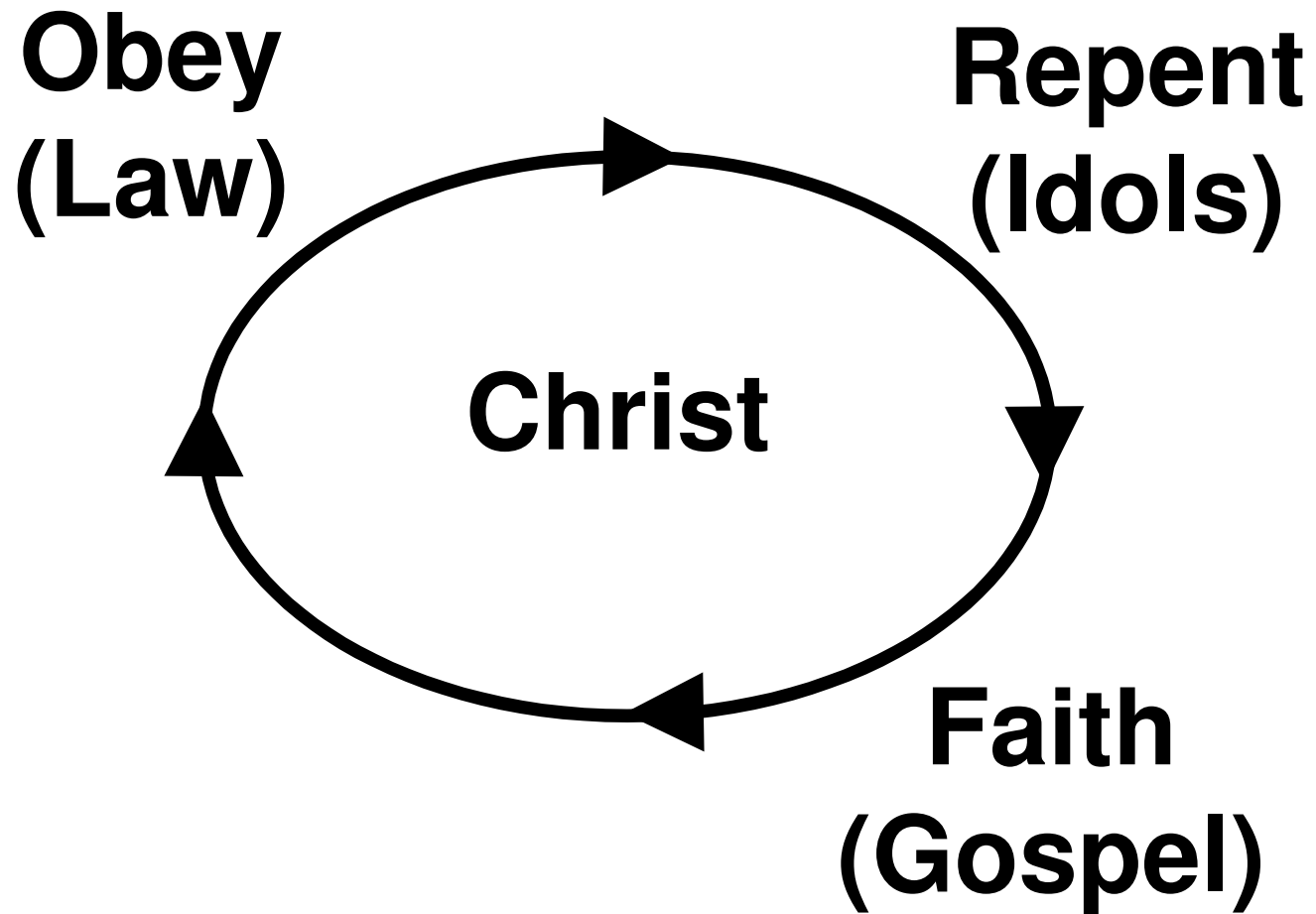


# Properly Dressed?

Colossians 2:6

*Theme: The Christian life must be characterised by continual repentance and faith.*



The Spiritual Combustion Cycle

# **As you received ... so walk**

Similarity between how a person receives Christ and how a person *continually* walks in Him.

A person receives Christ by repentance & faith, *cf.* Acts 20:21.

*To experience the transforming power  
of the Gospel a Christian must live a  
life of continual repentance and faith.*

# 1. A life of continual repentance.

When we lose our temper, get jealous, become fearful we must examine our hearts and ask ourselves

*Why did I get  
angry/jealous/fearful/anxious?*

*Why did I sulk?*

We must isolate and repent of our heart idols—the sin behind the sin.

A heart idol is where a person goes to find fulfilment and self-worth, where a person gets his/her identity.

It may be a quest for approval, reputation, power, control, material possessions, a ministry, a certain relationship, a good marriage, model children, sex.

When something comes between you and your heart idol the result is often anger, fear, depression, sulking, low self-esteem.

Heart idols must be identified, starved  
and removed.

The Puritans called this process  
*mortification*.

This can be a painful process but it  
must be done!

## **2. A life of continual faith.**

As we get rid of refuse, nourishment  
must be taken in.

When affections are pulled off a heart  
idol they must be placed on Jesus.

How does a Christian set his affections  
on Jesus by faith?

**(i) Glory in the Cross, *cf.* Gal. 6:14.**

‘Only when we learn how to glory in the cross and not in our idols will we ever experience the true liberating power of the gospel. Only when Jesus Christ becomes more attractive to us than the pleasures of sin will our hearts ever be set free.

(continued over)

The enslaving power of sin will never dissipate until a greater affection of the heart replaces it. This is why we must learn to pray like the old hymn writer William Cowper: “The dearest idol I have known/Whate’er that idol be/ Help me to tear it from Thy throne/And worship only Thee.””

(Dr. S. Childers, *True Spirituality: The Transforming Power of the Gospel*)

**(ii) Appropriate Jesus' promises.**

**(iii) Nurture your faith through  
obedience.**

*Cf.* Spiritual Combustion Cycle.

When affections are placed on Jesus  
then true happiness, fulfilment and  
self-worth are found.

## **Conclusion: Are You Properly Dressed?**

Continual repentance and faith is putting off the old self and continually putting on the new self. This ensures that the Christian is always dressed properly before God.

*How are you dressed this morning?*

The Gospel is good news about a life of  
continual conversion.