

But we have a growing distaste for verbal criticisms when there is no spiritual marrow or religious fatness enveloped in them. The entire gospel can be preached to sinners, and by faith and the manifestation of it they may be brought into the house of God, without the term kingdom being once named. *Things*, not mere *verbals*, convert men and bind them to each other and to the Lord in the bonds of gospel unity and perfectness. Now, brother 'Expositor,' here follows our gospel inventory—challenge it, if you please, and measure, weigh, and analyse it by the heavenly oracles, and if found wanting or if found redundant, we stand ready to approach still nearer the perfection of the infallible creed:—

1. God has loved us.
2. Christ among men and the Holy Spirit sent down from heaven are the demonstrations of the Divine affection.
3. Jesus our Lord taught, wrought signs, died, left the dead, showed himself alive, went up on high, and took the place of a mediator and highpriest, in development of his power, wisdom, favor, divinity, and readiness to redeem us from sin.
4. He made a gift to the world of certain men, twelve in number, whom he qualified to be his heralds, to deliver to the world the news concerning himself and his ability and willingness to save sinners.
5. These ambassadors of the Lord of Glory not only proclaim their Master's affection and rich grace, but declare his precepts and government, so that those who confide in and love Jesus may be obedient to him.
6. We proclaim to men, in imitation of the apostolic proclamation, the things Jesus said and did on earth, and the things that the Holy Spirit said and did by the inspired twelve after Jesus resumed his place in the heavens.
7. When men heartily trust in Christ and fondly yield their affections to him, we repeat Christ's first precept to them, take their confession, and assure them by authority of heaven that in thus yielding to Christ they do enjoy promised pardon and the Holy Spirit.
8. Thus we receive, by the gospel, as we have learned it, the saved in Christ into the Christian household.
9. Those who are thus inducted into the Lord's peculiar family, are regarded as pupils of the Lord to learn the entire code of laws and manners of the Divine Teacher.