

The Five Solas - The Pillars of Reformation Teaching

The Five “*Solas*” of the Protestant Reformation

Sola Scriptura Scripture Alone	Scripture <u>ONLY</u> is the final rule of Christian life, faith and practice. It is clear, sufficient and self-interpreting.
Sola Christus Christ Alone	Christ is the <u>ONLY</u> mediator between God and man. Christ's person and work alone are <u>sufficient</u> to save.
Sola Gratia Grace Alone	God's grace <u>ONLY</u> is the origin of salvation. All elements of salvation are an unmerited gift from God.
Sola Fide Faith Alone	The <u>ONLY</u> means of Justification is <u>faith</u> , apart from works of the Law. Faith <u>alone</u> appropriates salvation.
Soli Deo Gloria God's Glory Alone	To God <u>ONLY</u> belongs the glory for salvation. This alone is to be our <u>motivation</u> for life and worship.

The “*five solas*” articulated **five fundamental beliefs** of the **Protestant Reformation** in contrast to those of the **Roman Church** to which they were **protesting**. These five summarized what they saw as the **fundamental principles** of Christian life and faith.

This happened because the **Roman Church** had over a **long period** of time **moved away** from the **Gospel** and the **person and work of Christ** was no longer **central** to the **life and practice** of the **Church**. This resulted in the **pompous display** of **man-made religion**, with all of its **rites and traditions**, which **religion** the **Reformers** were formally **protesting**.

Sola Scriptura clearly meant that not only was the **Scripture** (not the Church), the **final rule of faith and practice**, but that it could be **understood** by the **common man** (not only a special priesthood) because it was **clear** (perspicuous) and **understandable** because the **Holy Spirit** could **interpret** the meaning to each **believer**.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 - 16 **All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness**; 17 that the man of God

may be **adequate, equipped** for every good work. NASB

2 Peter 1:3-4 - 3 seeing that His divine power has **granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him** who called us by His own glory and excellence. 4 For by these **He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of the divine nature**, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust. NASU

Sola Christus – Christ is the **only mediator** between **God** and **man**. Christ's person and **work alone** are **sufficient** to **save**.

His **life** and **death** are the **basis** on which the **believer** is **justified** (it cannot be **merited** by **good works**, (Eph 2:8-9), and this is absolutely necessary in the sight of God

(John 14:6), being the only **sufficient grounds** for **justification** by **God**. Christ and **His teaching** are the only way to God, the only **true revelation** of **God** in history, and the only Redeemer of mankind.

John 14:6 - 6 Jesus said to him, "**I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.** NASU

Eph 2:8-9 - 8 For **by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; 9 not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.**

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Sola Gratia – **God's grace only** is the **origin** of **salvation**. All elements of salvation are an **unmerited gift** from **God**.

Rom 3:23-24 - 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 **being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus;** NASU

Rather, salvation is the **"free gift"** (Rom 6:23) of God, **"not of works"** (Eph 2:9), and justification is a **"gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus"** (Rom 3:24).

Rom 6:23 - 23 For the wages of sin is death, but **the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.** NASU

Sola Fide— The only means of **Justification** is **faith**, apart from **works** of the **Law**. **Faith alone** appropriates **salvation**.

Therefore, **Justification**, indeed **reconciliation to God** can only be **appropriated** to us by **faith alone** (Rom 5:1), which object is **Christ alone** (Rom 5:9), and this comes as a **gift by God's grace** (Rom 3:24) alone to us.

Romans 5:1-2 – 1 Therefore **having been justified by faith**, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 through whom also we have obtained our **introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand**; and we exult in hope of the glory of God. NASB

Soli Deo Gloria - To **God only** belongs the **glory** for **salvation**. This **alone** is to be our **motivation** for **life** and **worship**. Because **salvation** is **wholly** the **work of God**, from first to last, it is to **God alone** that **glory** and **worship** is to be given (Rom 11:36).

Rom 11:36 - 36 For **from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever.** Amen. NASU