

The Five Solas

Sola Scriptura – Scripture alone

Sola Fide – Faith alone

Sola Gratia – Grace alone

Solo Christo – Christ alone

Soli Deo Gloria – To the glory of God alone

Solo Christo

We are saved by Christ alone, apart from the merit of any other person. Jesus alone is the King of kings (Revelation 19:16). He alone is our High Priest (Hebrews 4:14). He alone is our Redeemer (Galatians 3:13) and the sole Mediator between God and man (1 Timothy 2:5). The attempt to usurp or share in those positions is a blasphemous arrogation.

The work of Christ, and Christ alone, is the basis on which the ungodly are justified in God's sight.

Jesus is our High Priest

- **Hebrews 4:14-16** Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. ¹⁵ For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.
 - We no longer have need of a priest other than Jesus.
- Because Jesus is our only priest, He alone gives us access to the Father. He alone imputes righteousness. He alone cleans our conscience.
- What is the purpose of a priest? A priest is an intermediary who stands between God and man.
 - Because of Jesus, we can stand before God.
- We stand before God on the Basis of Jesus, and Jesus alone.

- **Hebrews 10:19-22** Therefore, brethren, **having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus,** ²⁰ by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, **His flesh,** ²¹ and **having a High Priest over the house of God,** ²² let us **draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith,** having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

Jesus our Redeemer

Redeem is a financial term. It means to purchase back something that has been lost or stolen, by the payment of a ransom.

We were once alive and connected to God. Because of sin, we became enslaved by the enemy bound to sin. Jesus' sacrifice paid the debt, the ransom, that sin created.

- **Romans 3:23-24** for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus
- **Matthew 20:28** just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

He redeemed us with His blood

- **Ephesians 1:7** In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace

He has redeemed us from sin

- **Titus 2:13-14** looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, ¹⁴ who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself *His* own special people, zealous for good works.

He bought us for Himself

- **1 Corinthians 6:20** For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

He bought us to make us Sons and Daughters of God

- **Galatians 4:4-5** But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵ to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.

Jesus our Mediator

- **1 Timothy 2:5** For *there is* one God and one Mediator between God and men, *the* Man Christ Jesus
- A mediator settles disputes. Jesus stands to settle the dispute God has with us because of sin.
- **Hebrews 9:15** And for this reason He is the Mediator of the new covenant, by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions under the first covenant, that those who are called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.

Jesus is the Way, the Truth, the Life

John 14:6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

There is no salvation by any means other than Jesus Christ.

- **Acts 4:12** Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

This brings a fundamental aspect about our faith that actually cannot be debated, although it often is. **Our salvation, our eternal life and security, is because of the life of Jesus in us – brought about by faith – and nothing else.**

- **Romans 5:1** Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,
- **Titus 3:4-7** But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, ⁵ **not by works of righteousness which we have done**, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, ⁶ whom He poured out on us

abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷ that **having been justified by His grace** we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Why did Jesus put all these 3 things together? Way, Truth, Life? In a super simplistic explanation – This is the path of salvation. Jesus is the Way to the Father. He is the only source of truth. Anything else that claims a way to salvation is simply wrong. It is a lie. And Jesus is life. Life is connection. Jesus is the only true path to eternal connection with God. He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

What happens when we ignore this principle?

- We look to others to intercede on our behalf
- We look to a professional, pastor, priest – to tell us what God is saying
- We are afraid to approach God
- We may exalt another to an inappropriate level
- Our prayer life suffers
- We forget that Christ is supreme and is more powerful than anything we face
- We inadvertently exalt the enemy
- We may believe that other religions could lead to salvation, or we compromise when confronted by people of differing beliefs.

Soli Deo Gloria

To the glory of God alone. All glory belongs to God.

- There is no room for the glory of man in God's plan for salvation. The glory is God's alone. Jesus said, "Apart from me you can do nothing"
 - **John 15:5** "I am the vine, you *are* the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.
- God's grace drew us to salvation and even enabled us to believe. Yes, we repented of our sin, but only because God's grace enabled us to repent. We placed our faith in Christ, but only because God's grace enabled us to have faith. There is no work that we can do to in any way earn our salvation or help secure it for ourselves. We are called and kept by the power of God alone, "in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable

riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus”
(Ephesians 2:7).

Listen to this from Romans 8:31-34

Romans 8:31-34 What then shall we say to these things? If God *is* for us, who *can be* against us? ³² He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? ³³ Who shall bring a charge against God’s elect? *It is* God who justifies. ³⁴ Who *is* he who condemns? *It is* Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.

God does everything. We are just recipients. So all glory belongs to God.

What is the Glory of God?

- The outward radiance of the intrinsic worth and beauty and greatness of his manifold perfections.
- Basically all the attributes of God

Why is the glory of God the goal of everything?

- The answer is that God wanted it that way. This was his plan from eternity. This was his purpose and design in creation and in all of history and in all the work of redemption. God created, sustains, governs, and saves in such a way as to reveal his glory. That’s his goal.
- It is His purpose in creation: **Psalm 19:1** “The heavens declare the glory of God”.
 - **Isaiah 43:6–7** “Bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the end of the earth, everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made”.
- This purpose in creation extends to everything God does:
 - **Ephesians 1:11–12** “God works all things according to the counsel of his will, so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory”.

“God planned all creation, all history, all redemption for his glory.”

- In Romans 9:23, Paul tells us that one of the purposes of redemption is
 - **Romans 9:23** and that He might make known the riches of His glory on the vessels of mercy, which He had prepared beforehand for glory,

This universe and everything in it is about the glory of God. This is the great reason for all created existence, including yours. If someone asks you, "Why is there such a meaningless, vastness of uninhabited galaxies and only one tiny dot of human existence?" your answer should be: "This universe is not intended to portray the importance of man. It is intended to give man some inkling of the grandeur of God. And it is an understatement."

Why is it important that it is only for God's glory?

- **Isaiah 42:8** I am the Lord, that is My name; And My glory I will not give to another, Nor My praise to carved images.
- Since it is God who does everything (and thus receives glory for it) then no one can undo what He has done, or stop it from happening.

What happens when we ignore this principle?

- We do not recognize the sovereignty of God
- We begin to glorify others
- We may glorify ourselves
- We take credit away from God for what He has done
- We allow clergy to dictate our lives, giving, activities ,etc...
- We become in danger of idol worship, or worshipping something other than God, by sharing His glory with anything else.

On a side note, this is the Sola that most commonly causes people to believe in pre-destination. If it is God that calls me, then only whom He calls are saved.

Our response is just as important. All have been forgiven, but we must receive His forgiveness. Receiving a gift does not give glory to yourself.