

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

The 5 Solas are 5 Latin phrases that came about as part of the Protestant Reformation that were used to emphasize where they believed that the church had gone astray.

While these are commonly associated with Calvinism, they are all true and when they are not adhered to, heresy and incorrect theology begin to creep in. And when those are allowed into the church, it is possible that Christianity itself may become so distorted that even the salvation of those adhering to those teachings may not be legitimate.

Things like the Apostles Creed, or the Nicene Creed have a purpose. Their purpose is to establish beliefs that Christians collectively agree on, can declare as absolute truth, and we no longer need to go about debating or trying to prove these things. We can say with certainty this is true and move on.

The 5 Solas were created in this same way. And when we find something that contradicts these things, this should be a red flag warning.

Sola Scriptura

This is the belief that “only Scripture, because it is God’s inspired Word, is our inerrant, sufficient, and final authority for the church”

- **2 Timothy 3:16-17** All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, ¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

- When Paul wrote this to Timothy, he was equipping a pastor.
 - In 2 Timothy 3 Paul is describing to Timothy how people will become evil, stray from the faith, persecute those who do good. Then he gives examples from the Torah, then from his life. Finally, he says the solution:
 - **2 Timothy 3:13-17** But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived. ¹⁴ But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned *them*, ¹⁵ and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, ¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.
- Peter explains that the Gospels were written by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit:
- **2 Peter 1:16-21** For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty. ¹⁷ For He received from God the Father honor and glory when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory: "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." ¹⁸ And we heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain. ¹⁹ And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts; ²⁰ knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, ²¹ for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke *as they were* moved by the Holy Spirit.

Sola Scriptura came about because the church made traditions superior in authority than the Bible.

What happens when this principle is ignored:

- We begin to make up our own doctrines
 - Prayers to saints/Mary
 - Indulgences
 - Separation of Clergy and lay people
 - The Immaculate Conception
 - Legalism
- We make up our own spiritual disciplines
 - Confessionals
 - Infant baptism
 - No marriage for priests
- We value outside opinions over the Bible
 - Branch David
 - Cults
 - Never questioning what a Bible teacher/preacher says
 - Progressive church ideas.
 - Redefining what being a Christian is
 - I hear more unbelievers telling us what being a Christian means, or what Jesus' teachings are than ever before. It's weird.
- We value cultural norms over Scriptural truth
 - What is right/wrong.
 - What is sin?
 - A cultural definition of Being a follower of Jesus

Acts 17:10-12 Then the brethren immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea. When they arrived, they went into the synagogue of the Jews. ¹¹ These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily *to find out* whether these things were so. ¹² Therefore many of them believed, and also not a few of the Greeks, prominent women as well as men.

The correct way to live is as the Bereans!

Sola Fide

- Faith Alone. This is important because it is one of the distinguishing characteristics or key points that separate the true biblical Gospel from false gospels. At stake is the very Gospel itself and it is therefore a matter of eternal life or death. Getting the Gospel right is of such importance that the Apostle Paul would write in
 - **Galatians 1:9** "As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed."
 - **Galatians 2:16** knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified.
 - **Ephesians 2:8-9** For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, ⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast.
- If Salvation is preached by anything other than faith – that is a false Gospel. Salvation by works is not salvation. Salvation by baptism is not salvation. Salvation by social-justice is not salvation. Salvation by being good is not salvation. Salvation in anything other than faith in Jesus is not salvation.
 - **Romans 4:4-5** Now to him who works, the wages are not counted as grace but as debt. ⁵ But to him who does not work but believes on Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is accounted for righteousness,
 - **Romans 3:21-22** But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, ²² even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference;
- Because salvation is by faith and not by works, this means that our righteousness is because of our faith. Faith that Jesus actually is the sacrifice for us. Faith that we are under His blood. Faith that Jesus is sufficient to take away our sins – and keep us righteous. Faith that His sacrifice is greater than any sin we may ever commit.
 - **Romans 3:28** Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law.

What happens when this principle is ignored?

- Legalism
- We feel not worthy
- We believe that we are not righteous.
- If we do not believe we are righteous, that we are still sinners, we lose the power to overcome sin.
- We question our salvation
- A false Gospel is preached – And people who think they are saved are not actually saved.
- We lay burdens on people they can't keep.
 - **Romans 3:20** Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law *is* the knowledge of sin.
- People become ashamed to come into God's presence
- We present the way to get saved wrong

Romans 10:9-10 That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

This is a principle that separates most false religions and cults from Christianity.

We are simply declared righteous when we believe God by God imputing Christ's righteousness to us.

Romans 5:19 For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous.

The correct way to live is to accept our salvation and our righteousness by faith and faith alone. Rest in Him.

Sola Gratia

Sola gratia is simply acknowledging that the Bible teaches that the totality of our salvation (including justification, sanctification and glorification) is a gift of grace from God.

- **Ephesians 2:8-9** "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast."
- It is the acknowledgement that salvation from the wrath of God is based on God's grace and mercy and not on anything good in us. One reason so many want to reject this important doctrine is that they do not want to accept what the Bible clearly teaches about the basic condition of human nature since the fall of Adam. The Bible says that our hearts are "deceitful" and "desperately wicked" (Jeremiah 17:9) and that "there is none righteous, no not one; there is none that understands, there is none that seeks after God" (Romans 3:10-11). Rather than acknowledge our total helplessness and hopelessness apart from the grace of God, most people want to believe that they have a role to play in their salvation. But the Bible is clear that we cannot earn God's favor through our own merit; it is solely by His grace.
- We are not only saved by faith alone, but we are made perfect through His grace, not our efforts:
 - **2 Peter 1:1-4** Simon Peter, a bondservant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who have obtained like precious faith with us by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ: ² Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, ³ as His divine power has given to us all things that *pertain* to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, ⁴ by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption *that is* in the world through lust.
 - **Titus 2:11-14** For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, ¹² teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, ¹³ 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.

In other words – You did nothing to earn your salvation. You also can do nothing to earn your sanctification. And you can do nothing to earn your glorification. God does it all. And it is a free gift. God gives freely.

- **Romans 8:32** 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?
- **1 Corinthians 2:12** Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God.

What happens when we ignore this principle?

- Shame and condemnation enter
 - **Romans 8:1** *There is* therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.
- We strive, and eventually burn out
 - **Hebrews 4:1-3** Therefore, since a promise remains of entering His rest, let us fear lest any of you seem to have come short of it. ² For indeed the gospel was preached to us as well as to them; but the word which they heard did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in those who heard *it*. ³ For we who have believed do enter that rest, as He has said: "So I swore in My wrath, 'They shall not enter My rest,' " although the works were finished from the foundation of the world.
- We become sin conscious instead of grace conscious.
 - **Galatians 2:17-21** "But if, while we seek to be justified by Christ, we ourselves also are found sinners, *is* Christ therefore a minister of sin? Certainly not! ¹⁸ For if I build again those things which I destroyed, I make myself a transgressor. ¹⁹ For I through the law died to the law that I might live to God. ²⁰ I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me. ²¹ I do not set aside the grace of God; for if righteousness *comes* through the law, then Christ died in vain."

- **Romans 6:14** For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.
- We stall in our sanctification
 - **Galatians 3:1-3** O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you that you should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed among you as crucified? ² This only I want to learn from you: Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? ³ Are you so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are you now being made perfect by the flesh?
- We may even give up on our faith
- We bring a curse upon ourselves
 - **Galatians 3:10-12** For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse; for it is written, "Cursed *is* everyone who does not continue in all things which are written in the book of the law, to do them." ¹¹ But that no one is justified by the law in the sight of God *is* evident, for "the just shall live by faith." ¹² Yet the law is not of faith, but "the man who does them shall live by them."
- We question our salvation

"But wait a minute," you might say, "Surely my will and my choice must be the determining factor." Not according to Paul: God's election "depends not on human will or exertion, but on God, who has mercy" (Rom. 9:16) His choice, in short, is not conditioned on us; that would give us reason to boast. Rather, his electing grace is unconditional.

The correct way to live is to surrender to God's grace and allow Him to sanctify us and do the work in us and stop trying. By trying, we actually hinder God in His work.