

The Five “Solas” of the Reformation

I. Sola Scriptura

Sola Scriptura means that *Scripture alone* is the absolute authority for the believer in all matters of faith and practice. This doctrine is often called the *formal principle* of the Reformation because it is the source and authority for what is often called the *material principle* of the Reformation, the doctrine of *sola fide*, or *faith alone*.

2 Timothy 3:14-17

II. Solus Christus

Solus Christus refers to the idea that it is through *Christ alone* that we may be saved. He is the *sole* mediator between God and men.

John 14:6

Acts 4:8-12

Colossians 1:13-20

1 Timothy 2:5-6

III. Sola Gratia

Sola Gratia simply means *grace alone*, and it refers to the idea that we may be saved by the grace of God alone and not through any merit of our own.

Romans 3:21-24

Ephesians 1:3-8

IV. Sola Fide

Sola Fide refers to the idea that we are saved by grace through *faith alone*, apart from works. Faith is a *means of grace* by which we receive the free gift of salvation.

Romans 3:27-28

Ephesians 2:4-10

The Reformers and their theological heirs have always insisted that, according to the Scriptures, “we are saved by grace through faith alone, but the faith that saves is never alone.” Good works are not a part of saving faith, but they do inevitably follow from it.

V. Soli Deo Gloria

Soli Deo gloria means “to God alone be the glory.” The Reformers insisted that, in accordance with Scripture, since the work of salvation is sovereignly wrought by God from beginning to end, and since even the faith by which we receive salvation is a gift of God, then all praise and glory belong to God alone.

Isaiah 48:9-12

1 Corinthians 10:31

1 Peter 4:10-11

Ephesians 1:3-14