

Introduction: in our Bible class we considered something of a sketch of the history of the Protestant Reformation which was ignited on October 31, 2006

- out of those years of struggle and debate for the truth, 5 statements emerged which summarize the fundamentals of what can be called “the Reformed Faith”, or what should also be called “Evangelical”

I. **Sola Scriptura:** Scripture alone.

- the acceptance of the 66 books of the Old and New Testaments as the infallible, inerrant Word of God
- these are the special revelation of God’s Truth to man
- this conviction is the foundation, or the fountain out of which everything else flows
- Proverbs 30:50; John 17:17; 2Timothy 3:16

The Authority of God’s Word Over Everything Else

- Religious claims
 - other writings including church councils, statements of faith or confessions
 - also includes other claims of inspired books (Mormons, SDA, Christian Science, Koran)
 - this is in contrast to claims of certain Charismatics that God is giving ongoing new revelation
- Secular claims
- there is nothing, including science, history, or human reason, which takes precedence by way of authority

What We Are to Believe

- a revelation of the faith, of final truth: who God is, who we are, what salvation is, what is the origin of the world, the purpose of all things, and the final outcome

How We Are to Live

- Privately – how I am to live as an individual created in the image of God
- Corporately – in the family, in church, and in society

In practice, the church is guided, far too often, by the culture. Therapeutic technique, marketing strategies, and the beat of the entertainment world often have far more to say about what the church wants, how it functions and what it offers, than does the Word of God. Pastors have neglected their rightful oversight of worship, including the doctrinal content of the music. As biblical authority has been abandoned in practice, as its truths have faded from Christian consciousness, and as its doctrines have lost their saliency, the church has been increasingly emptied of its integrity, moral authority and direction. – The Cambridge Declaration

- the Lord alone is lord of the conscience, and we are bound only to God’s Word as revealed in Scripture as to what we must believe and how we must live

II. **Sola Gratia:** Grace alone.

- It is not by any works a man may do that salvation shall come
- Because man is born a sinner, and even the best of his works are tainted by both original and actual sin, there is no way of salvation apart from the unmerited favor and provision of God
- Because it is of grace, God is not obligated to save anyone
- Any work of salvation he does for anyone is completely out of mercy and grace to undeserving rebels
- This is in contrast to the “self-esteem” emphasis in our day, and high view of human ability in salvation
- Romans 9:15, 18-21

III. **Sola Fide:** Faith alone.

- the grace of God in salvation is granted to men not by any human work, but accepted by the empty hand of faith
- faith is the movement of the mind and soul to receive as a free gift what God has provided for his salvation
- faith is not a meritorious work, but the acceptance of what God has done on His behalf
- it is by faith that God declares a man as righteous because He has received the gift of righteousness from God, apart from any work of his own
- true faith will always be accompanied by obedience to God’s Word out of love, fear, gratitude and hope, and without such works there is no evidence of saving faith
- Romans 3:28; 4:5-6; Ephesians 2:8

IV. **Sola Christus:** Christ alone.

Christ’s Work Alone

- that which is accepted by a sinner by faith alone is the perfect obedience and sin-suffering of the Lord Jesus Christ

The Five Solas of the Reformation

- Jesus Christ, as the Son of God, God Himself, was born as a real man, submitted to the Law of God, and lived without sin
- His death on the cross was the receiving of the punishment of the wrath of God for fallen humanity
- Romans 8:3; 2Corinthians 5:21
- When Christ is received by faith, all of the righteousness of Jesus Christ is credited or imputed to that man's account, and the guilt of all his sin removed forever

Christ's Mediation Alone

- There is no other mediator between God and man, and the works of no one else is needed to add to Jesus' finished work
- 1Timothy 2:5; Hebrews 7:25

V. Soli Deo Gloria: Glory to God alone.

- God, in and through the Lord Jesus Christ, has created all things, and sustains all things by the Word of His power
- All of creation exists for the glory of God through Jesus Christ, and in the end all things will be set aright from its fallen condition to accomplish that glory
- Romans 11:36
- because of this, everything that is done, from the "mundane" to the most holy and sacred acts of worship, are to be done for His glory – 1Corinthians 10:31
- this is especially true in regards to worship, which is not about pleasing unbelievers, but offering to God what He is worthy of; worship is not about man, it is about God
- our personal needs are met when we have a view of the Great God, are confronted with our sin, are assured of His grace, and taught how to right our lives by the truth of Scripture

APPLICATION

- With these things I blow the trumpet and raise the banner of what we are striving to be as a church
- We must seek to humbly and earnestly defend these truths delivered to us
- History has shown again and again that erosion in a single area of any one of these is disastrous
- Let us love the Scriptures, let us love grace through faith, let us love Christ, let us love God's glory
- While as Christians and as the Church at large there are many friendly debates, discussions, and even disagreements, these are the things that are fundamental and essential