



Reformed Doctrine—part 1
The 5 Solas
From sermon 10.25.20

Read *2 Timothy 3:14-17 & Ephesians 2:8-9*

Review from Sunday's sermon: a rediscovering of the Scriptures in the 16th Century launched the Protestant Reformation. As the Scriptures were read and compared in their original languages, many major inconsistencies were found in Roman Catholic doctrine. The Reformers instead found 5 clear, biblical doctrines concerning salvation. They are called the Sola statements—Sola being Latin for "alone". These changed everything in church practice, preaching, and teaching. They would be the basis for Reformed Theology/Calvinism/T.U.L.I.P.

1. What are the five Sola Doctrines? What does each mean? Sola...

- Scriptura = Scripture Alone (no higher authority. leaders/church is bound to Scripture)
- Gratia = Grace Alone (no saved by works or any mixture of works and grace. Or kept saved)
- Fide = Faith Alone (God grants saving faith. He changes our will to receive Him and believe)
- Christos = Christ Alone (there is no other means of Salvation. It's not Jesus plus anything)
- Deo Gloria = to the Glory of God Alone (priesthood of believers. Not just clergy serve God)

2. Along with Scripture, what did/does Catholicism believe to be an equal* authority? Tradition (which is the position of the Church, the determination of councils, and the edicts of popes.)

2a. What did the Reformers point out as the deep, fatal issue with this practice? Men are fallible. The Scripture is infallible. Many times, popes and councils of different ages have rendered completely opposite teachings on the very same issue.

3. Inevitably, any religion/belief system that is not soundly rooted in Grace Alone, will be based on what? Works = no assurance of salvation. Discuss
See *Titus 3:4-7*

4. Because of Grace Alone and Faith Alone, what does Reformed Doctrine teach about regeneration (being saved/born again)? Regeneration proceeds even faith. God must resurrect and give life to the dead human spirit in and grant faith in order for the individual to exercise faith. On his own, man would never see and receive the Gospel.
See *Matthew 16:13-17, Ephesians 2:1-5, & 1 Corinthians 2:10-14* [and the Lazarus analogy]

5. We understand that man is saved by Faith Alone. But, what have many done to abuse/redefine this doctrine? Basing the evidence of their salvation on some past experience. Works still play a vital role. They are not required for salvation, but are a main evidence of salvation. A genuinely saved person will desire and need corporate worship, preaching, fellowship, and serving in ministry.

6. How does bad doctrine effect... [various personal answers]

...worship? If any component of salvation is me, I rob God of His due glory.

...discipleship? One bad doctrine always leads to another, until all foundations are destroyed

...evangelism? We think we can save someone through logic, argument, or emotional appeal

...fellowship? We tolerate all lifestyles, beliefs, and practices in the Church.
