**The 5 *Solas* of the Reformation**

1. *Sola Scriptura* (“Scripture Alone”)
   1. Definition: “The Bible alone is the Word of God and the only infallible rule of faith and practice.”
   2. “The authority of the Holy Scripture, for which it ought to be believed, and obeyed, depends not upon the testimony of any man, or church; but wholly upon God (who is truth itself) the author thereof: and therefore it is to be received, because it is the Word of God.” WCF 1.4
   3. “The whole counsel of God concerning all things necessary for his own glory, man’s salvation, faith and life, is either expressly set down in Scripture, or by good and necessary consequence may be deduced from Scripture: unto which nothing at anytime is to be added, whether by new revelations of the Spirit, or traditions of men.” WCF 1.6
   4. “The infallible rule of interpretation of Scripture is the Scripture itself: and therefore, when there is a question about the true and full sense of any Scripture (which is not manifold, but one), it must be searched and known by other places that speak more clearly.” WCF 1.9
   5. Scripture
      1. Acts 17:11 - “Now these Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so.”
      2. 2 Timothy 3:16-17 - “All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, **17**that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.”
      3. 2 Peter 1:20-21 - “knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone’s own interpretation. **21**For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.”
2. *Sola Gratia* (“Grace Alone”)
   1. Definition: “Our salvation is not earned in any part; it is the free gift of God from start to finish.”
   2. “This effectual call is of God’s free and special grace alone, not from anything at all foreseen in man, who is altogether passive therein, until, being quickened and renewed by the Holy Spirit, he is thereby enabled to answer this call, and to embrace the grace offered and conveyed in it.” –WCF 10.2
   3. Scripture
      1. Romans 3:23-24 – “for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by His grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus”
      2. Romans 11:5-6 – “So too at the present time there is a remnant, chosen by grace. But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works; otherwise grace would no longer be grace.”
      3. Galatians 2:21 – “I do not nullify the grace of God, for if righteousness were through the law, then Christ died for no purpose.”
      4. Galatians 5:4 – “You are severed from Christ, you who would be justified by the law; you have fallen away from grace.”
      5. Ephesians 2:8-9 – “For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.”
3. *Sola Fide* (“Faith Alone”)
   1. Definition: “We are forgiven our sins and counted righteous in God’s sight solely by trusting in Christ.”
   2. “Faith, thus receiving and resting on Christ and His righteousness, is the alone instrument of justification; yet it is not alone in the person justified, but is ever accompanied with all our saving graces, and is no dead faith, but worketh by love.” WCF 11.2
   3. Scripture:
      1. Acts 16:30-31 - “Then he brought them out and said, ‘Sirs, what must I do to be saved?’ **31**And they said, ‘Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.’”
      2. Romans 3:28 - “For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law.”
      3. Romans 5:1 - “Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”
      4. Galatians 2:16 - “yet we know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, so we also have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law, because by works of the law no one will be justified.”
      5. Ephesians 2:8-9 - “For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, **9**not a result of works, so that no one may boast.”
      6. Philippians 3:9 - “not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that [righteousness] which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith”
4. *Solus Christus* (“Christ Alone”)
   1. Definition: “Jesus Christ is the only Savior of sinners and His atoning sacrifice is sufficient to save them.”
   2. “The Lord Jesus, by His perfect obedience, and sacrifice of Himself, which He, through the eternal Spirit, once offered up unto God, hath fully satisfied the justice of His Father; and purchased, not only reconciliation, but an everlasting inheritance in the kingdom of heaven, for all those whom the Father hath given unto Him.” WCF 8.5
   3. “But the principal acts of saving faith are accepting, receiving, and resting upon Christ alone for justification, sanctification, and eternal life.” WCF 14.2
   4. Scripture:
      1. John 14:6 - “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”
      2. Acts 4:11-12 – “This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. And there is salvation in no one else [other than Jesus], for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”
      3. Romans 8:1 – “There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.”
      4. Romans 10:9 – “because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.
      5. 1 Timothy 2:5-6 – “For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time.”
5. *Soli Deo Gloria* (“To God Alone, the Glory”)
   1. Romans 11:36 - “For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.”
   2. 1 Corinthians 8:6 - “yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.”
   3. Colossians 1:16 - “all things were created through him and for him”
   4. 1 Corinthians 10:31 - “So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.”

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| **Protestant** | **Roman Catholic** |
| Scripture Alone | Scripture + Tradition + Magisterium (Pope) |
| Grace Alone (from God) | Grace Alone (through sacraments) |
| Faith Alone | Faith + Works |
| Christ Alone | Christ Alone (via the Church/Pope) |
| To God Alone, the Glory | Glory to God, Mary, Saints, Pope |