

Soli Deo Gloria

How Living for God Changes Everything

5 Solas of the Protestant Reformation

- ***Sola Scriptura*** means the Bible is our final authority on faith
- ***Solus Christus*** means salvation is only in Jesus Christ alone
- ***Sola Fide*** means we receive redemption through faith alone
- ***Sola Gratia*** means that our entire salvation is by grace alone
- ***Soli Deo Gloria*** refers to God who alone receives all glory

Introduction

- ***Soli Deo Gloria* means all glory to God alone**
- **Christians today are tempted to think that everything is about us**
- **God created this world for his glory: “The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands” (Ps 19:1)**
- **This does not mean humans are degraded or meaningless**
- **God glorifies himself in this world by redeeming us from sin, changing our hearts, and shaping us to be like Christ (Rom 8)**

Revelation of God's Glory

- **²⁸ And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. ³⁰ And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified (Rom 8:28-30)**

The Glory of God in Exodus

- **When the Israelites built the Tabernacle in the desert, God's cloud of glory filled the Tabernacle**
- **The Tabernacle was God's place of dwelling**
- **When the people entered the Promised Land and built the Temple under King Solomon, that cloud reappeared and filled the Temple**
- **The Temple was the place of God's presence**
- **As God drew near to his people and made his glory known to them, his people were afraid due to their sinfulness**

Jesus Reveals the Glory of God

- In the NT, when Jesus entered the world, he manifested the glory of God
- ¹⁴The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth (Jn 1:14)
- In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, ² but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe. ³ The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven (Heb 1:1-3)

SDG in the Protestant Reformation

- **The Protestant Reformation of the 16th century is credited by historians as having great impact on culture and society through the doctrine of vocation—one's calling in the world**
- **The Gospel and the Christian's vocation were never separated**
- **For the Reformers, there was no dualism between the spiritual and sacred—only a distinction**

The Great Commandment and the Great Commission

- **We must never confuse these two**
- **³⁶ “Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?”**
- **³⁷ Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ ³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹ And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ ⁴⁰ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments” (Matt 22:36-40)**
- **¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age” (28:19-20)**

The Great Commandment and the Great Commission

- **All good gifts are from above and we take those gifts into the world**
- **God says if you want to serve me, then serve your neighbour**
- **Our day job is not just a job**
- **Our day job is our divine calling from God, because he has called us to love our neighbour**
- **We should do our best in the vocation to which God has called us**
- **This does not mean we forget about proclaiming the gospel to the ends of the earth**

Two Kingdoms

- God has given us the Great Commandment and the Great Commission, which we must never confuse
- In the 16th century, the **Roman Catholicism** believed the church was over the state and all other spheres of life
- The **Anabaptists** (Radical Reformation) took a church versus the state and culture posture
- The **Protestant Reformers** held that church and state as two distinct ways in which God operates in the world by his providence and saving grace
- Only in Israel was the church and state a theocracy

Two Kingdoms

- **So, we believe that all Christians live in two kingdoms with two citizenships**
- **John Calvin writes: “Two kingdoms capable of being governed by various rulers and various laws. This distinction will prevent what the gospel inculcates concerning spiritual liberty from being misapplied to political regulation” (*Inst* 1536, 602)**
- **In other words, God cares about this world, though in different ways from the spiritual kingdom—common grace and special grace**

Common Grace and Special Grace

- **We need to be salt and light to a darkened world by doing good**
- **¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven (Matt 5:16)**
- **This means we show the love of Christ and share the gospel where God places us**

Conclusion

- **Only if our salvation is by grace alone will God alone receive all the glory**
- **If there is something of our own we can claim, then we no longer boast in Christ alone**
- **But if he is the author and finisher of our salvation then he alone is to be magnified for his sovereign grace**
- **As Christians, these *solas* should cultivate an attitude of total humility**
- **Whether it is in our secular vocations or our praise on a Sunday morning, to God alone be the glory**