

## THE FIVE SOLAS

We subscribe fully to the Five Solas that emerged during the Protestant Reformation and which summarize the Reformers' basic theological beliefs. These Five Solas are Latin phrases which articulated the fundamental pillars that the Reformers believed to be essentials of the Christian life and practice.

1. Sola Scriptura (“by Scripture alone”)  
We believe in the plenary (i.e. full, complete, entire) and verbal inspiration of the Bible, both the Old and New Testaments - by God. We hold that the Bible, and not tradition or the church, is our all-sufficient and only authority for Christian doctrine. The Scriptures are the revelation of God to man, the infallible, authoritative rule of faith and conduct (2 Tim 3:15-17; 1 Thess 2:13; 2 Pet 1:21).

2. Soli Deo Gloria (“glory to God alone”)

All glory is to be due to God alone (Ps 115:1), since salvation is accomplished solely through his will and action — not only the gift of the all-sufficient atonement of Jesus on the cross but also the gift of faith in that atonement, created in the heart of the believer by the Holy Spirit.

3. Solus Christus (“Christ alone”)

Christ is the only mediator between God and man (1 Tim 2:5), and there is salvation through no other but “by Christ alone”. We reject all other claimed mediators between God and man like Mary and the ‘saints’.

4. Sola Gratia (“by grace alone”)  
Salvation comes by God’s grace (Eph 2:8) or “unmerited favour” only — not as something merited by the sinner. This means that salvation is an unearned gift from God.

5. Sola Fide (“by faith alone”)  
Justification is received by faith only, without any mixture of or need for good works, though saving faith is always evidenced by good works.

- Eph 2:8-10 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

## GOD

We believe in the one true God who has revealed himself as the eternal and self-existent "I AM". God is omnipotent, omnipresent, omniscient, immutable, holy, sinless, deserving of worship, the creator of heaven and earth and the redeemer of mankind (Deut 6:4; Isa 43:10,11).

### ○ THE TRINITY

God has further revealed himself as embodying the principles of relationship and association as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The Godhead (i.e. Trinity) is co-existent in three persons; who are eternally co-equal - not three Gods but one; not one person but three (Matt 28:19; Luke 3:22, John 1:1).

## ○ THE CREATOR

We believe in the recent creation of all things by God in six literal days - as described in the first chapter of Genesis - and accepted by Jesus himself (Matt 19:4; 25:34).

## JESUS CHRIST

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God (Rom 1:4; John 1:1-2).

The Scriptures declare:

### ○ HIS VIRGIN BIRTH

He was conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin, Mary (Matt 1:23, Luke 1:31-35).

- HIS DEITY

We maintain that “in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form” (Col 2:9). We uphold the absolute deity of Jesus Christ as well as his complete humanity; two natures but one undivided person.

- HIS SINLESS LIFE

As an acceptable, unblemished sacrifice for sin, Jesus was “tempted in every way, just as we are--yet he did not sin” (Heb 4:15; also Heb 7:26; 1 Pet 2:22).

- HIS MIRACLES

We acknowledge that Jesus was accredited by God “by miracles, wonders and signs” (Acts 2:22; 10:38).

- HIS DEATH

We believe in the substitutionary death of Jesus on the cross when “God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.” (2 Cor 5:21; 1 Cor 15:3).

- HIS RESURRECTION

We believe in the bodily resurrection of Jesus from the dead as the Scriptures declare and as the original apostles bore witness to (Matt 28:6, Luke 24:39, 1 Cor 15:4).

## ○ HIS ASCENSION

After his resurrection Jesus ascended into heaven, where he is now seated at the right hand of God, the position of power and authority (Acts 1:9,11; 2:33; Phil 2:9-11; Heb 1:3).

## SALVATION

Man's only hope of redemption is through the shed blood of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.



- THE FALL

Man was created good and upright; for God said, "Let us make man in our own image, after our likeness." However, man by voluntary transgression fell and thereby incurred not only physical death but also spiritual death, which is separation from God (Gen 1:26,27; 2:17; 3:6; Rom 5:12-19).

- ORIGINAL SIN

Because of inherited sin (Rom 5:12), man is born in sin (Ps 51:5), is by nature depraved (Rom 3:10) and is incapable of saving his own soul. "All have sinned" (Rom 3:23) and are guilty before God.

## ○ UNLIMITED ATONEMENT

God loved the world including unregenerate mankind (John 1:29; 3:16). The Lord Jesus Christ, by his death and resurrection, in an Unlimited Atonement, has made available to all mankind the forgiveness of sins and eternal life (1 John 2:2), but some refuse to accept the provision for their salvation and thus remain lost (1 Tim 4:9-10). We reject both Limited Atonement held by 5-point Calvinists (that Jesus died only for the elect) and Universalism (that all will be saved irrespective of whether they believe or not).

## ○ PREDESTINATION AND ELECTION

We reject the damnable doctrine of Double Predestination or Unconditional Election i.e. that from eternity God has chosen some to be saved and has chosen others to be damned. We believe in Conditional Predestination and Conditional Election – that predestination is based on God's foreknowledge (Rom 8:29; 1 Pet 1:2). God's election is conditional on faith in Jesus - God does not arbitrarily consign some people to eternal damnation; their wilful rejection of God's salvation makes them responsible (John 3:18).

## ○ REDEMPTION

The blessings of salvation are made personally real to the individual, not by works, or by any personal merit in themselves, but by faith (John 3:16), which is accompanied by confession (1 John 1:9) and repentance (Acts 2:38). By the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, being justified by grace through faith, man becomes an heir of God, according to the hope of eternal life (Luke 24:47; John 3:3; Rom 10:13-15; Eph 2:8; Titus 2:11; 3:5-7).

## ○ THE NEW BIRTH

We believe in the necessity of the work of the Holy Spirit in the New Birth, which makes a sinner a child of God (John 3:3-8).

- RESISTIBLE GRACE

We reject the idea of Irresistible Grace i.e. when God decides to save someone, they certainly will be saved and the Holy Spirit cannot be resisted. We believe that no person is forced against their will to become a Christian (John 1:12) and that God allows his grace to be resisted by those unwilling to believe (Acts 7:51).

- THE EVIDENCE OF SALVATION

The inward evidence of salvation is the direct witness of the Spirit (Rom 8:16). The outward evidence to all men is a life of righteousness and true holiness (Eph 4:24; Titus 2:12).

- ETERNAL SECURITY

We reject the doctrine of the Perseverance of the Saints (Eternal Security or “Once saved, always saved”) which says that those whom God has called can never lose their salvation. We believe that salvation can be lost, as continued salvation is conditional upon continued faith. Salvation can be lost through wilful disobedience (Heb 10:29-31).