

The Five Solas

OF THE REFORMATION

[PART 5]

SOLI DEO GLORIA

Reading: Romans 11:33 - 36

Introduction

- The Reformation was defined by the Latin word '*sola*' meaning '*alone*.'
- Sola Scriptura (Scripture alone) , Solus Christus (Christ alone), Sola Gratia (Grace alone) and Soli Fidi (faith alone). Now we consider '*soli Deo gloria*' (glory to God alone).

1 Definition Of Soli Deo Gloria

- In this sola we contemplate God: the sovereign Being of the universe.
- Consider [Isaiah 42:8 & 48:11].
- Hebrew word for '*glory*' is '*kabod*' meaning '*weightiness/heaviness*.'
- It denotes His importance, dignity & significance. Jehovah is the ultimate '*heavyweight*.'
- To glorify Him is to ensure He receives the ultimate ascription of honour.
- In Luther's day, Mary and saints and popes got some of the glory (and still do).
- The evangelical church now also has its '*celebrities*.'
- Whatever happens in church is down to **HIS** glory alone.

2 Creation Declares The Glory Of God

- Consider [Psalm 19:1], [Psalm 8:1] and [Isaiah 43:7].
- Unbelieving scientists and educators give the glory for creation to a mythical '**big bang**' and a chance driven evolutionary process.
- God should also be glorified for all His '**gifts**' to us.

3 The Gospel Declares The Glory Of God

- In the gospel, does God get all the glory or just some of the glory?
- Depends what you believe about the gospel.
- If you '**boast**' that you are saved because God foresaw that you would chose Christ when the gospel was heard then you get a smidge of the glory and if you and I get even a smidge then God doesn't get it all. Selah. [Ephesians 2:8 - 9].
- We are saved because He chose us for no reason on our part but simply because it pleased God to do so.

4 We Are To Live For The Glory Of God

- Consider [1 Corinthians 10:31].
- What is the ultimate purpose of your life?
- Westminster Shorter Catechism. '**Man's chief aim is to glorify God and to enjoy Him forever.**'
- Whatever we do: do it all to the glory of God.
- Consider the example of Nebuchadnezzar in [Daniel 4].
- '**O great Babylon that I have built.**' God smote him with insanity for 7 years.
- When his sanity was restored Nebuchadnezzar blessed and praised the God of heaven.
- Consider [Psalm 115:1]
- '**For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen.**'

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