

Five Foundational Convictions of the Reformation

Sola Gratia—Grace Alone
Sola Fide—Faith Alone
Sola Christus—Christ Alone
Sola Scriptura—Scripture Alone
Soli Deo Gloria—Glory of God Alone

-001.tiff

What is *Sola Scriptura*? God's revelation given in the 66 books of the Bible—beginning with Genesis and ending with the Revelation—is our ultimate, trustworthy and final authority for all faith and practice.

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Sola Scriptura is All About the
Authority of the Bible

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“What we believe about the Bible is the most fundamental issue regarding all of our faith and practice.”

-004.tiff

“Unless I am convinced by the testimony of Scriptures or by clear reason (for I do not trust either the pope or in councils alone, since it is well known that they have often erred and contradicted themselves), I am bound by the Scriptures I have quoted and my conscience is captive to the Word of God.

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I cannot and will not retract anything, since it is neither safe nor right to go against conscience, I cannot do otherwise. Here I stand, may God help me, Amen.”

—Martin Luther

-006.tiff

⁸And the **Scripture**, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, "In you shall all the nations be blessed" ...²²But the **Scripture** imprisoned everything under sin, so that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe. —Galatians 3:8, 22 ESV

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But what does the **Scripture** say?
—Galatians 4:30a ESV

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"Paul views the Scriptures as if they were God speaking... These verses, along with others, highlight an absolute identification of Scripture with the words of God in the minds of NT writers and are important biblical support for the historical belief in the total inspiration of the Bible and its authority." —James M. Boice

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...¹⁵and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness.
—2 Timothy 3:15-16 ESV

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"If it's right for you, it's true for you," or
"It's true for me because I believe it."

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²⁰But you, beloved, building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, ²¹keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life. ²²And have mercy on those who doubt. —**Jude 20-22** *ESV*

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Sola Scriptura Points to the Life-Giving Quality of the Bible

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¹²For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. ¹³And no creature is hidden from His sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account. —**Hebrews 4:12-13** *ESV*

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“You may read other books, but this Book reads you.”

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“When the Scriptures speak, God speaks.” —**Martin Luther**

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A mighty fortress is our God,
A bulwark never failing;
Our helper He, amid the flood
Of mortal ills prevailing:
For still our ancient foe
Doth seek to work us woe;
His craft and power are great,
And, armed with cruel hate,
On earth is not his equal.

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Did we in our own strength confide,
 Our striving would be losing,
 Were not the right Man on our side,
 The Man of God's own choosing:
 Dost ask who that may be?
 Christ Jesus, it is He;
 Lord Sabaoth, His Name,
 From age to age the same,
 And He must win the battle.

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And though this world, with devils filled,
 Should threaten to undo us,
 We will not fear, for God hath willed
 His truth to triumph through us;
 The Prince of Darkness grim,
 We tremble not for him;
 His rage we can endure,
 For lo, his doom is sure,
 One little word shall fell him.

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That word above all earthly powers,
 No thanks to them, abideth;
 The Spirit and the gifts are ours
 Through Him Who with us sideth;
 Let goods and kindred go,
 This mortal life also;
 The body they may kill:
 God's truth abideth still,
 His kingdom is forever.

—Martin Luther

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Sola Scriptura is the Testimony
 of My Life

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I want us to be...
 • Resolute in our commitment to
 teach and live according to the truth
 of Scripture

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I want us to be...
 • Resolute in our commitment to
 teach and live according to the truth
 of Scripture
 • Reformed through the teaching of
 the Word that leads to engagement in
 community and our culture, and that
 challenges and changes the world

-.024.tiff

I want us to be...

- Resolute in our commitment to teach and live according to the truth of Scripture
- Reformed through the teaching of the Word that leads to engagement in community and our culture, and that challenges and changes the world
- Reckless in our abandonment to relying upon and risking our future on the Word of God

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