

The Five Solas

1 Tim 2:5; Eph 2: 8-10, Matt 15:6, Rom 11:36

Today we end our series on The Number One. There is only one God, and only one creature made in His image, namely, humans. The good news for sinful humans is that there is One Savior, who is One Mediator between God and man, the man Jesus Christ (1 Tim 2:5). Today we end the series with the Five Solas.

The Five Solas (Sola = "Alone")

- Alone means only one thing on the list. Keeping things simple.

1. Scripture Alone

- Jesus affirmed the Old Testament as truly God's Word: "The Scripture cannot be broken." (John 10:35; see also Matt 5:18, 22:29; Mark 12:36, etc.)
- What happens when you add to this sola?
- Jesus warned us about religious teachings eclipsing Scripture: "So for the sake of your tradition you have made void the word of God." (Matt 15:6)

2. Christ Alone

- Review: "For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus." (1 Tim 2:5)
 - Picture a hungry beggar receiving a loaf of bread from a generous man. That loaf of bread is Christ.
- What happens when you add to this sola?

3. Grace Alone

- Grace is the love you don't deserve!

- "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." (Eph 2:8-9)
 - Picture again a beggar receiving a loaf of bread from a generous man. The cause of this gift is the gracious heart of the man, rather than the beggar earning it.
- What happens when you add to this?

4. Faith Alone

- "Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life, and shall not come into judgment but has passed from death to life." (John 5:24; see also Eph 2:8 above)
 - The extended, expectant hand of the beggar is analogous to saving faith.
- What happens when you add to this sola?

5. To the Glory of God Alone

- Romans 11:36: "For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen." (Rom 11:36, see also Is 42:8, 1 Cor 10:31, Ps 115:1)
 - What happens when you add to this sola?

Questions for further reflection and application:

Each of the five solas is supposed to be "alone," but we have a tendency to add to them.

- If you complicate the picture by adding to a sola, how does this affect you spiritually? Consider each of the five cases.
- Practically speaking, how can you avoid adding to each of them? What helps you?

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