**The FIVE SOLAS – Soli Deo Gloria – Glory to God alone**

**They are five foundations of the Christian church.**

**Sola (Latin only) The Five Solas: 5 Core Truths - Five basic principles**

1. **Sola Scriptura (Scripture alone)**
2. **Solus Christus (Christ alone)**
3. **Sola Gratia (Grace alone)**
4. **Sola Fide (Faith alone)**
5. **Soli Deo Gloria (God’s glory alone)**

**The five Solas guard and clarify the gospel.**

**Three pillars and two bookends. The order is often different - they all end with today’s. Soli Deo Gloria is at the heart of all 5!**

**Paul writes in Romans the most profound presentation on salvation.**

* **Ro 1-3 - Man depravity and need for salvation by grace alone.**
* **Ro 4-5 - God’s plan for salvation through Christ alone.**
* **Ro 6-8 - God’s work in a believer to save, mature, and grow by faith alone.**
* **Ro 9-11 - God’s election of both Jew and gentiles for God’s glory alone.**
* **Ro 12-16 – Walking in service to Christ for the glory of God.**

**At the end of Romans 11 is a crescendo - a doxology of Praise!**

**Romans 11:33 Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! 34 “For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor?” 35 “Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid?” 36 For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.**

**The highest end for all things is the glory of God – nothing is higher in importance. Either we live for his glory, or we do not live at all – we merely exist. He is the sun of our orbit.**

**Soli Deo Gloria (Glory to God alone) – Everything in the created order - the universe, history, humanity and the entire plan of salvation - exists for the glory of God – alone.**

**The beginning and end of mankind is found in the glory of God. The purpose of all creation, salvation, including our goal as Christians - is the glory of God. “that God may be all in all” -1 Cor 15:28**

* **The authority of scripture tells us exclusively (Sola Scriptura) that**
* **Salvation is by God’s grace alone (Sola Gratia) that**
* **We receive this through faith alone (Sola Fide)**

**A Faith is a gift given by God; therefore, the act of faith is His.**

* **Faith in the only perfect sacrifice of Christ alone (Sola Christus)**
* **All this is given by God alone, for his glory alone (Soli Deo Gloria)**

**Hebrews 7:25, "He is able for all time to save those who draw near to God through him."**

**What is our claim to salvation? What is our contribution? Nothing.**

**Soli Deo Gloria: no one else gets the credit for any of it.**

**As many Psalms declare – all praise to glory of God!**

**Westminster Confession of Faith explains: “God has all life, glory,**

**goodness, and blessedness, in and of Himself.”**

**So much is the glory of God – that the bible uses is as a name.**

**The King of glory (1 Sam 15:29, Ps 24:8-10) / The Lord of Glory (1 Core 2:8)**

**The God of glory (Ps 29:3, Act 7:2) / The Glorious Father (Eph 1:17)**

**The very name of God (LORD) is called Glorious (Deut 28:58)**

**As creator of all things and Sovereign over all things – all glory is his! Isa 48:11, 42:8 - “I am the Lord; that is my name! I will not yield my glory to another.**

**God’s glory is both intrinsic and ascribed**

**God has intrinsic glory – in and of himself. We don’t give him these.**

**But we are to ascribe him Glory. What we give in response to his glory.**

**Let’s unpack Romans 11:33-36 - (it has both).**

**This verse is the most complete and comprehensive verse on the exclusivity of God’s glory than any other passage.**

**The first half (intrinsic glory) provokes the second (ascribed glory). One must understand this to understand his glory.**

**God (intrinsically) is gloriously: There is no other like him.**

**Romans 11:33 Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God!**

* **Omniscient – God has complete and full knowledge of all things past, present, and future simultaneously and exhaustively.**

**11:33b How unsearchable are his judgments**

* **Omnipotent – God is able to do all he wills to do in complete justice and perfection.**

**His glory is known in his mercy (Eph 1:1-14, Phi 1:9-11) His judgments declare his glory (Ex 14:4, 17-18, Ez 28:22, 39:13, Rom 9:14-24)**

**11:33c …and how inscrutable his ways!**

* **Immutable – God is unchanging in purpose, will, attributes and character. His decisions and ways are without change or dispute.**

**You are unable to bring a charge against him.**

**34 “For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor?”**

* **Holiness – no one is like God. Set apart and perfect in all things.**

**35 “Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid?”**

* **Omnibenevolent – Good beyond measure – you could never repay his goodness. God is righteous and good in all actions/ purposes.**

**36 For from him and through him and to him are all things.**

* **Sovereign**

**36 For from him… are all things. (sovereign will)**

**He is the master architect and designer of all things**

**and through him… are all things. (Sovereign actions)**

**He is the active administrator who completes all he ordains**

**and to him are all things. (Sovereign glory)**

**It is for this goal and aim and goal – for his majesty / glory.**

**Repeated often: 1 Cor 8:6 yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.**

**Colossians 1:16 For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him.**

**Heb 2:10 - For it was fitting that he, for whom and by whom all things exist…**

**Eph 4:6 one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. (Lord of all – authority over all – working his will through all and in all things)**

**Revelation 4:11 Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created.**

**Soli Deo Gloria! This is true for all things:**

**In Creation – the uncreated creator, created all things (Gen 1-2). A supreme artisan working with his clay (Rom 9). Sovereign over our solar system and the universe’s expansion, rotation of the earth, & weather.**

**(RC Sproul) “There are no maverick molecules”**

**Col 1:17 And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.**

**The galaxies, the spiritual world, angelic world, every living thing and inanimate object. Our body and biology, emotions and psyche – God created it all! (Job 38-41 – Can you do that?)**

**Rom 11:36 For from him and through him and to him are all things.**

**In Time – the sustainer who holds all creation is governing all things always. Every events of history and antiquity. It is his to have and use for his glory and purpose. He raises up kings and lowers another!**

**Daniel 2:21 He changes times and seasons; he removes kings and sets up kings… God is the architect of his own sovereign plan.**

**There is not plan a, b, or c. There is no multiverse options. Only the perfect immutable plan of God from eternity past unfolding perfectly.**

**There is no such thing as good luck or bad luck. No coincidences. No karma. No Astrology or fortune tellers. Or, creating your own destiny. (These are only vain imaginations)**

**It is all going according to God’s plan – and God always wins.**

**Ps 113:4 The Lord is exalted over all the nations, his glory above the heavens.**

**God is the creator, producer, writer, and sole director of all history.**

**And though he is not the author of sin, in his allowance sin occurred in order to display the greatness of God’s love, glory, mercy, and justice (Eph 1:3-10, 2:1-10, 3:7-11).**

**Rom 11:36 For from him and through him and to him are all things.**

**In Salvation – The LORD calls, draws, saves, and keeps. (Eph 1:3-11)**

**Jesus, was slain before the foundation of the earth (Rev 13:8, 1 Pet 1:18-20), and it all went as planned by his sovereign will (Acts 4:23-28).**

**To the praise of his glorious grace! (Phil 1:6).**

**God planned and appointed your conception, birth, your parents, gender, DNA, your life, and spouse, children. Allowing both the good and bad to occur to accomplish his purposes. (Rom 8:28-30)**

**Ps 139:1-18 – says every day is ordained by God. Even every word spoken is established by God before we speak them.**

**AND God in sovereignty brought those who are his to a place of hearing God’s word - opening spiritually blind eyes - making new.**

**This is done for the sake of his own name and glory - Deut 7:7-8; Is 48:9-11**

**John 15:5 “I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.**

**Monergism (soli de gloria) vs synergism**

**5th-century British monk Pelagius began to adamantly teach that we are not that deprived. We are born without a completely sinful nature and have the ability to respond to God out of our own moral agency.**

**This was condemned in 418, and he was labeled a heretic. But his teaching circulated in many churches.**

**A softer version known as Semi-Pelagianism became popular and prevalent today. It teaches there is a cooperation between God & man.**

**God’s drawing and our acceptance - together save. This is synergism.**

**Some see salvation like a perfectly thrown spiral that must be caught – you just need to be at the fright place and the right time, put your arms out and grab it. The result likewise is a strut in the end zone with chest pounding and personal praise.**

**Phil 2:12 …work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, 13 for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.**

**What we have in grace, faith, and salvation – we received from God**

**(1 Cor. 4:7, 1 John 4:19) For he loved first, chose us first, called first)**

**By Christ alone, by the grace of God alone, through faith alone in God alone – one is born again. Soli Deo Gloria!**

**Isaiah 46:8 “Remember this and stand firm, recall it to mind, you transgressors, (rebels) 9 remember the former things of old; for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me, 10 declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, (declaring the eternal future as one present at all times) saying, ‘My counsel (my plans) shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose,’**

**Isaiah 14:24 The Lord of hosts has sworn: “As I have planned, so shall it be, and as I have purposed, so shall it stand…**

**Psalms 33:10 The Lord brings the counsel of the nations to nothing; he frustrates the plans of the peoples. 11 The counsel of the Lord stands forever, the plans of his heart to all generations.**

**Proverbs 16:9 - The heart of man plans his way, but the Lord establishes his steps. / Ps 37:23 - The steps of a man are ordered by the LORD / Pro 19:21**

**Many plans are in a man's heart, but the purpose of the LORD will prevail. / Pro 21:31 - The horse is made ready for the day of battle, but the victory belongs to the LORD.**

**God says, I have planned it and I will do it. He is sovereign and everything is going to plan. Soli Deo Gloria!**

**What do we do with this? God honoring response**

**(Back to) Rom 11:36 For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen. (This is the response – ascribe him glory!!)**

**To him be glory! This is not a duet – this is his. To take credit for your salvation and accomplishments is to rob God.**

**The Glory of the LORD is to be…**

**\*\* The focus of our Church – 1 Peter 4:10-11, 2 Peter 3:18, Eph 3:20-21**

**Some view church and God as an avenue for self-improvement rather than to honor and serve God. When God is in proper perspective and served – life has purpose and peace follows.**

**\*\* The focus of our worship – Hebrews 12:28–29, Ps 115,**

**It is not meant to be entertainment or self-exaltation.**

**Worship is not to please ourselves - but to please God.**

**Psalm 115:1 Not to us, Lord, not to us but to your name be the glory, because of your love and faithfulness.**

**It is to be wrapped in humility – “as one who boasts in the lord.”**

**\*\* The focus of our family - Psalm 96:7-9, Deut 6:6-9, Josh 24:15, Ps 127:1-2**

**Your family is set apart for his glory! Church life, family life, activities**

**We pray, your kingdom come; your will be done (Matt 6:10) His glory!**

**We pray for favor and for the salvation of those we love.**

**If God knows all things and in control of all things (as the Bible tells us):**

**Then why pray? (1) We are commanded to (2) We are invited to (3) It is an act of submission to the mystery & purposes of God (4) It is comforting and strengthening (5) It builds our faith (6) It is an instrument by which God accomplishes his will (7) it brings God glory!!**

**\*\* The focus of our work and pursuits – Rom 12:6-8, 1 Pet 2:12, 4:10**

**If we have any talent or ability – any discovery – any science breakthrough – any achievements – any successes – any accolades – it is to God’s glory. So, others can see Jesus.**

**Matthew 5:16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.**

**\*\* The focus of our daily life**

**If we live – if we breathe – it is for his glory. All of it.**

**A Lordship centered life vs. a self-centered life (pursuits / mindset)**

**Westminster confession, the chief end of man is to glorify God and to enjoy him forever.**

**1 Corinthians 10:31 So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. (God wants it all!)**

**Colossians 3:17 And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.**

**This all comes under attack from a culture committed to individualism and self-determination = it has crept into modern church theology and views of salvation and worship - becoming human centered rather than God centered.**

**To know the glory of God is to know Jesus.**

**1 Cor 2:8, Heb 1:3, John 1:14, Jam 2:1, 2 Cor 4:4, Rev 21:22-23**

**Christ is the true glory of God revealed!**

**Heb 1:2 - Jesus is the very radiance of God’s glory**

**1 Cor 2:8 - Jesus is “the Lord of Glory”**

**John 1:14 – Jesus is the very Glory of the Father revealed.**

**In the kingdom to come, believers will look back and give all glory to God for their salvation - and unbelievers will acknowledge the perfect Lordship of Christ – to God’s glory.**

**Philippians 2:9-11 - Therefore, God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.**

**How will you approach the throne on that day?**

**The authority of scripture alone tells us exclusively that Salvation is by God’s grace alone that we receive this through faith alone, in the only perfect sacrifice of Christ alone. And all this is given by God alone, for his glory alone.**

**Rom 11:36 For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.**

**Only those who know him can understand this wonder. And proclaim with a bold, humble, and praise filled resounding, Amen!**