

The Five Solas

October 31, 1517



Name: Martin Luther

Born: November 10, 1483,

Died: February 18, 1546,

Wanted Dead or Alive: His refusal to renounce his writings at the Diet of Worms in 1521 resulted in both his excommunication by the pope and condemnation as an outlaw by the Holy Roman Emperor.

<- This guy nailed it.

Most Famous Quote: “...if I am not satisfied by the very text I have cited, and if my judgment is not in this way brought into subjection to God's word, I neither can nor will retract anything; for it cannot be either safe or honest for a Christian to speak against his conscience. Here I stand. I cannot do otherwise. God help me. Amen.”

Name: Pope Leo X (Giovanni di Lorenzo de' Medici)

Born: December 11, 1475

Died: December 1, 1521

Renaissance Pope and Patron of the Arts: his efforts to beautify Rome and especially the construction of Saint Peter's Basilica with the talents of artists and sculptors such as Raphael and Michelangelo, Pope Leo, was putting the church in great financial debt.

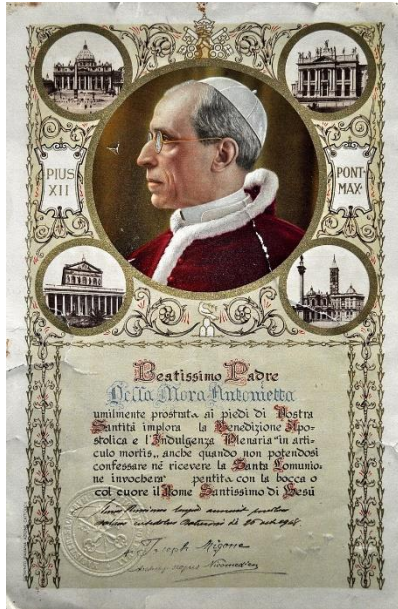
Most Famous Quote: “Since God has given us the papacy, let us enjoy it.”

- In order to bring much-needed wealth to Rome, Pope Leo X granted a special indulgence campaign to Albert of Mainz in exchange for the position of the Archbishop of Mainz.



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What's an Indulgence?



- According to the Catholic tradition, an indulgence is a way to reduce the amount of punishment one has to undergo for sins.
 - Therefore, attaining an indulgence is promised to either lessen the time of suffering in purgatory or lessen one's spiritual suffering in this life.
- "An indulgence is partial or plenary according as it removes either part or all of the temporal punishment due to sin. Indulgences may be applied to the living or the dead." - *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (1992), Part 2, Section 2, Chapter 2, Article 4

Martin Luther Reads Romans

Romans 1:17 For in it (the gospel) the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith."

- "I felt that I had been born anew and that the gates of heaven had been opened. The whole of Scripture gained a new meaning. And from that point on the phrase, 'the justice of God' no longer filled me with hatred, but rather became unspeakable sweet by virtue of a great love." – Martin Luther



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- These are all in Latin as it was the language of theology at the time.
 - *Sola* is the Latin root from which we get "solo," so it means "only" or "alone."
- Not assembled as a theological unit until the 20th century, but represents the central values of the Reformation.

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Sola Scriptura (Scripture Alone)

- Often referred to as the “the formal principle of the Reformation”
- Scripture is *inspired*, and there for it is:
 - Inerrant (without errors)
 - Sufficient (complete on its own)
 - The final authority for the church

2nd Timothy 3:16 - 17

16 All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,

17 that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

- While Scripture came from many human writers, it has only one divine author.

2nd Peter 1:20 – 21

20 knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation.

21 For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

- Therefore, because Scripture is *inspired*, it is also inerrant, meaning it is without error in all that it asserts.
 - Scripture is true because God is faithful.

Psalms 19:7 - 8

7 The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple;

8 the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes;

- All other authorities in the Christian life serve underneath Scripture, while *Scripture alone* (Sola Scriptura) rules over all authorities.
 - The Bible alone is God’s inspired, inerrant, and sufficient word.

*Your Word alone is solid ground
The mighty rock on which we build
In every line the truth is found
And every page with glory filled*

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Solus Christus (Christ Alone)

- The message of the gospel declares all of mankind as slaves to sin and in the condemnation of death.
 - In Adam, we have all fallen...

Romans 3:23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

- Our human temptation in our fleshly pride is to think that there is something in ourselves, even in the slightest, that could somehow contribute to our redemption.
 - Perhaps by being a good person, or by obedience to the law, or maybe by enough good works...
- But the authority of the Scripture shows us that none of us can be righteous on our own.

Romans 3:10 as it is written: “None is righteous, no, not one;

- But God sent his Son to die for us, in our place, so that we could become the righteousness of God by faith in Christ alone.

Romans 3:21 - 22

21 But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it—

22 the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction

Acts 4:11 - 12

11 This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone.

12 And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”

Galatians 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

*In Christ alone we're justified
His righteousness is all our plea
Your law's demands are satisfied
His perfect work has set us free*

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Sola Fide (Faith Alone)

- The Reformers often spoke of the “great, marvelous exchange.”
 - As Christ has taken our sin and its penalties on the cross.
 - And we, in exchange, have received his perfect, spotless righteousness.
- Not only have we been forgiven, and our debt has been paid in full
 - but imputed to our account is Christ’s perfect record of obedience.

2nd Corinthians 5:21 For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

1st Peter 3:18 For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit

- By faith and faith alone is how this righteousness is imputed to us.

Philippians 3:9 and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith

- The work of Christ is the basis of our right standing before God.
 - We are justified by God not on the basis of our works,
 - but only through faith in the completed work of his Son.

*Through faith alone we come to You
We have no merit we can claim
Sure that Your promises are true
We place our hope in Jesus' name*

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Sola Gratia (Grace Alone)

- *Amazing grace, how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me...*

Romans 11:6 But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works; otherwise grace would no longer be grace.

- We could have done nothing to work hard enough to save ourselves.

Titus 3:3 - 7

3 For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another.

4 But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared,

5 he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit,

6 whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior,

7 so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

- *'tis grace hath brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.*
- We didn't "help" God save us.
 - We were entirely helpless to save ourselves.
- All of our salvation is by grace alone.

2nd Timothy 1:9 - 10

9 who[God] saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began,

10 and which now has been manifested through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel

*By grace alone we have been saved
All that we are has come from You
Hearts that were once by sin enslaved
Now by Your pow'r have been made new*

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Soli Deo Gloria (Glory to God Alone)

- Reflecting on these solas should cultivate an attitude of awestruck humility.

Psalm 115:1 Not to us, O LORD, not to us, but to your name give glory, for the sake of your steadfast love and your faithfulness!

- Let no false God rob the glory that should go to our God as the one and only God.

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

- Let no pride within us boast in or give our praises or love to any other.

Isaiah 48:11 For my own sake, for my own sake, I do it, for how should my name be profaned? My glory I will not give to another.

Revelation 4:1 – 11

1 After this I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven! And the first voice, which I had heard speaking to me like a trumpet, said, “Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this.”

2 At once I was in the Spirit, and behold, a throne stood in heaven, with one seated on the throne.

3 And he who sat there had the appearance of jasper and carnelian, and around the throne was a rainbow that had the appearance of an emerald.

4 Around the throne were twenty-four thrones, and seated on the thrones were twenty-four elders, clothed in white garments, with golden crowns on their heads.

5 From the throne came flashes of lightning, and rumblings and peals of thunder, and before the throne were burning seven torches of fire, which are the seven spirits of God,

6 and before the throne there was as it were a sea of glass, like crystal. And around the throne, on each side of the throne, are four living creatures, full of eyes in front and behind:

7 the first living creature like a lion, the second living creature like an ox, the third living creature with the face of a man, and the fourth living creature like an eagle in flight.

8 And the four living creatures, each of them with six wings, are full of eyes all around and within, and day and night they never cease to say, “Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!”

9 And whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to him who is seated on the throne, who lives forever and ever,

10 the twenty-four elders fall down before him who is seated on the throne and worship him who lives forever and ever. They cast their crowns before the throne, saying,

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.”

*Gloria! Gloria! Glory to God alone
Gloria! Gloria! Glory to God alone*