

FIVE SOLAS vs. Five Solos

- There are five solas (alones) of the Reformation, however, over time these five solas have been misunderstood, misused and corrupted.
- The modern “American Evangelism” has corrupted the five solas (alones) and turned them into five solos (onlys).
- These solos tend to isolate the solas from everything else in Christianity, such as the Means of Grace (Word and Sacraments), the Office of the Ministry, the Church, etc.
- The solos also tend to point people away from Christ and His Means of Grace and instead point people to themselves, their own works, their own opinions and their own feelings.

In the chart below I attempt to give a brief explanation of the true solas verses the false solos:

<p>Sola Gratia (Grace Alone)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By the grace of God alone is salvation offered to all people, not on account of any work they have done. 	<p>Solo Gratia (Grace Only)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Man is saved by God’s grace only, regardless of faith. • By the grace of God all people are saved regardless of their repentance or belief. • This view is held by the Universalists.
<p>Sola Fide (Faith Alone)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By faith alone we receive the grace of God, the forgiveness of sins, the righteousness of Christ, and eternal life. 	<p>Solo Fide (Faith Only)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All you has to do to be saved is believe. • You are saved by faith only, you don’t need the Word or the Sacraments, or even to go to church. All one has to do is ‘just believe’. • This view is generally held by those who promote Decision Theology and end up turning faith into a good work.
<p>Solus Christus (Christ Alone)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are saved by the death and resurrection of Christ alone. • We are saved by the work of Christ and not by the work of any other, deity (false) or human. 	<p>Solo Christus (Christ Only)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ‘Jesus and me’ (JAM) theology. • All you need to be saved is to have a ‘relationship’ with Jesus. • You don’t need the Ministry or the Church, or anyone else, it’s all about your personal relationship with Jesus.
<p>Sola Scriptura (Scriptura Alone)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scripture alone is the only source, rule and norm of our faith. • All doctrines, creeds and confessions are to be based upon the Word of God. 	<p>Solo Scriptura (Scriptura Only)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ‘Me and my Bible’ or ‘no creed but the Bible’ theology. • Forget about the historical creeds and confessions of the Church, forget the Church Fathers, the Reformers and any other theologian, all you need is your Bible and your own interpretation. • These people believe that they only can perfectly understand the Word of God.
<p>Soli Deo Gloria (Glory to God Alone)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All that you do should be done to the glory of God alone. • Whether you are serving God, your neighbour, or looking after your own wellbeing everything you do should be done to the glory of God. 	<p>Solo Deo Gloria (Glory to God Only)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Praise and worship God only. • Forget about the Law, your neighbour and helping others, all you need to do is give glory and honour to God. • This view is very common in contemporary worship. They shift the focus away from teaching the Word of God and to their own worship and praise of God. • This view generally bases a successful worship on personal good feelings and not on the doctrine presented during worship.