

Discipleship: An Introduction to Systematic Theology and Apologetics

The Doctrines of Redemption: Key Protestant
Reformation Doctrines

The Heights Church April 8, 2018

Systematic Theology Syllabus

- **The Doctrines of the Bible** (Completed 2015/2016)
- **The Doctrines of God** (Completed 2015/2016)
- **The Doctrines of Creation** (2015/2016)
- **The Doctrines of Redemption**
- **The Doctrines of the Church**
- **The Doctrines of the Future**

Redemptive History/Doctrines of Redemption Syllabus

- The Fall
- The Covenants
- The Law
- The Old Testament Sacrificial System

The Old
Testament Era
(BC)

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- Pre-Reformation Roman Catholicism
 - The Reformers
 - Key Protestant Reformation Doctrines

The Church Era
(2nd Century A.D.
to present)

Key Protestant Reformation Doctrines

1. Authority: Scripture

2. Sacraments:

- 2 vs 7
- Protestant division over the LORD'S Supper and Baptism

3. Salvation:

- The Fall
- The Atonement
- The Role of the Holy Spirit
- Common Grace vs Saving Grace
- Regeneration
- Conversion (Faith and Repentance)
- Justification (Faith vs Works and Grace vs Merit)
- Adoption
- Sanctification
- Death and the Intermediate State
- Union with Christ
- The Doctrines of Grace
- Other Topics of Interest?

Key Protestant Reformation Doctrines – “The Five Sola’s”

Categories	Sola’s	Versus Roman Catholicism
Authority	<i>Sola Scriptura</i> (By Scripture alone)	+ Church Councils, Papal Bulls, Traditions
Sacraments		7 vs 2
Salvation	<i>Soli Deo Gloria</i> (to/for God alone Glory)	+ Human cooperation, veneration of Saints, Mary the Mother of God
	<i>Sola Fide</i> By Faith alone	+ Sacraments and works
	<i>Sola Gratia</i> By Grace alone	+ Baptism and works (human merit)
	<i>Solo Christo</i> Christ alone	+ Mediation of Mary, other Saints, the Church and Works

Key Protestant Reformation Doctrines – The Five Sola's

- The Five Sola's were not systematically articulated together until the 20th century.
- In most of the earliest articulations of the solas, three were typically specified: scripture over tradition, faith over works, and grace over merit, each representing an important distinction compared with Roman Catholic doctrine.
- All of the solas show up in various writings by the Protestant Reformers, but they are not catalogued together by any.
- In 1916, Lutheran scholar Theodore Engelder published an article titled "The Three Principles of the Reformation: *Sola Scriptura, Sola Gratia, Sola Fides*" ("only scripture, only grace, only faith").
- In 1934, theologian Emil Brunner substituted *Soli Deo gloriam* for *Sola Scriptura*. Later, in commenting on Karl Barth's theological system, Brunner added *Christus solus* to the litany of solas while leaving out *sola scriptura*.
- In 1958, historian Geoffrey Elton, summarizing the work of John Calvin, wrote that Calvin had "joined together" the "great watchwords". Elton listed *sola fide* with *sola gratia* as one term, followed by *sola scriptura* and *soli Deo gloria*.

Key Protestant Reformation Doctrines – Authority (*Sola Scriptura*)

- The essential idea is that the Bible is the only reliable authority/source of information regarding God because the original document was infallible and inerrant as well as clear, sufficient and necessary.
- Clearly endorsed by both Luther and Calvin.
- Luther concluded his defense at the Diet Worms by saying: Unless I am convinced by the testimony of the Scriptures or by clear reason (for I do not trust either in 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. I cannot and will not recant anything, since it is neither safe nor right to go against conscience. May God help me. Amen.
- To this day it is a central tenet of “Evangelicalism”.

Key Protestant Reformation Doctrines – Authority (*Sola Scriptura*)

- There are at least five corollaries that are implied by *Sola Scriptura*.
 1. The Bible in its original form is the inerrant, infallible, inspired word of God given for our instruction.
 2. The Bible used by a Christian should be a translation from the earliest, most reliable copies of the OT/NT in the original Hebrew and Greek into the common language of the reader.
 3. When preaching in the common language of the people, the preacher should preach through entire books.
 4. The preacher should refer to the original Hebrew/Greek as necessary even though they preach in the common language of the people.
 5. While the earliest, most reliable copies of the OT/NT are used for translation into the common language, this does not imply that commentaries and other writings are forbidden in preparing sermons. Scripture alone is authoritative but that does not necessarily mean only Scripture is useful for our instruction.

Key Protestant Reformation Doctrines – Authority (*Sola Scriptura*)

- **Roman Catholics view the Bible as an infallible collection of infallible books. The problem is they include the deuterocanonical (apocrypha) included in the Latin Vulgate and Septuagint but not in the Hebrew Bible.**
- **Protestants view the Bible as a fallible collection of infallible books.**
- **Ever since the Reformation there have been attacks upon the exclusive authority of Scripture.**
- **Ever since the Reformation there has been a faithful remnant of true Bible believing churches that have held that the Bible is the only reliable authoritative source of information regarding God and salvation.**

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

Key Protestant Reformation Doctrines – Authority (*Sola Scriptura*)

But, as it is written, "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him"-- these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. For who knows a person's thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God. And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual. The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. (1 Corinthians 2:9 -14)

Key Protestant Reformation Doctrines – Authority (*Sola Scriptura*)

But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. (John 14:26)

For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. (Romans 15:4)

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, (2 Timothy 3:16)

this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. 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. (2 Peter 1:20 – 21)

The Enlightenment - The Age of Reason (18th Century)

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Claiming to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things. Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen. For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. (Romans 1:18 - 26a)