

Untangling The Reformation

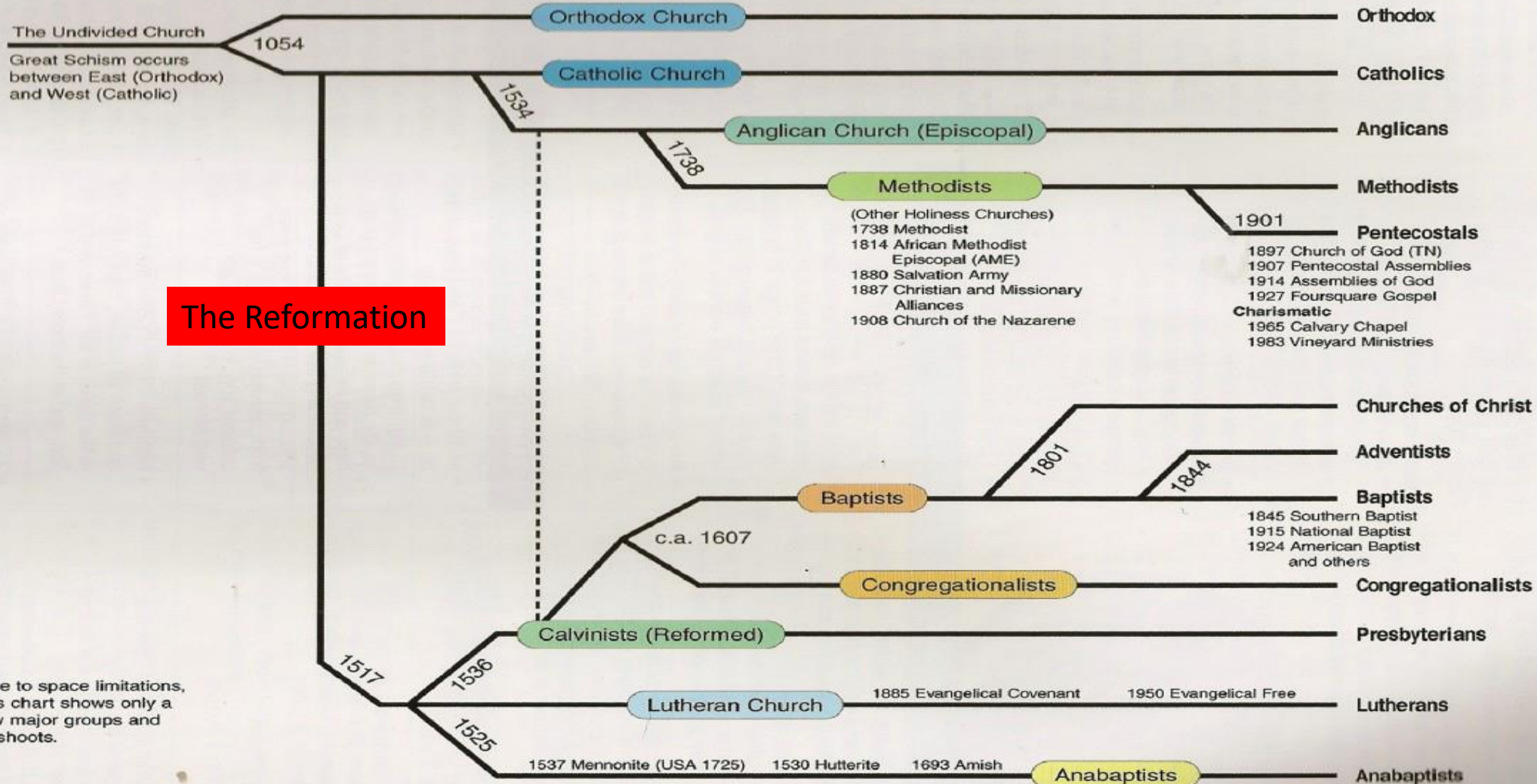
THEME: OBEDIENT FAITH

Rom 1:5 Through him we received grace and apostleship to call all the Gentiles to the obedience that comes from faith for his name's sake.

Original sin
God is in control
Children Sovereignty
Elect
Fall away Faith
Obedience Evil Hell
Predestination

How tangled up are you?

Family Tree of Denominations





The History of the Catholic Church



The Church of Rome

Doctrine: Sacred Scripture + Sacred Tradition

- Last Rites
- Viaticum
- Original Sin
- Purgatory
- Indulgences
- Sainthood
- Mariology
- Josephology
- Rosary
- Priesthood vow of celibacy
- Extreme Unction

What Really Matters?

Faith?
Obedience?
Works?
Love?
Discipleship?
Forgiveness?
Grace?
Doctrine?



Luther's Reaction and Priorities – The Five Solas



Sola Scriptura – Scripture Alone

Sola Gratia – Grace Alone

Sola Fide – Faith Alone

Solus Christus – Christ Alone

Soli Deo Gloria – God's Glory Alone



Luther's Choice – the 5 Solas

- **Sola Scriptura:** Scripture alone is the basis for all church doctrine, belief, and practice.
- **Sola Gratia:** The idea that salvation is by grace alone. The idea that it is an unmerited gift of God based solely on His goodness, not our own.
- **Sola Fide:** The idea that salvation is through faith alone. The idea that faith is a gift bestowed by God.
- **Solus Christus:** The idea that salvation is found in Christ alone.
- **Soli Deo Gloria:** The idea that God saves man for God's glory alone, and that believers are to live our lives to glorify Him alone.

Luther's Seal



First, there is a black cross in a heart that remains its natural color. This is to remind me that it is faith in the Crucified One that saves us. Anyone who believes from the heart will be justified (Romans 10:10). It is a black cross, which mortifies and causes pain, but it leaves the heart its natural color. It doesn't destroy nature, that is to say, it does not kill us but keeps us alive, for the just shall live by faith in the Crucified One (Romans 1:17). The heart should stand in the middle of a white rose. This is to show that faith gives joy, comfort, and peace—it puts the believer into a white, joyous rose. Faith does not give peace and joy like the world gives (John 14:27). This is why the rose must be white, not red. White is the color of the spirits and angels (cf. Matthew 28:3; John 20:12). This rose should stand in a sky-blue field, symbolizing that a joyful spirit and faith is a beginning of heavenly, future joy, which begins now, but is grasped in hope, not yet fully revealed. Around the field of blue is a golden ring to symbolize that blessedness in heaven lasts forever and has no end. Heavenly blessedness is exquisite, beyond all joy and better than any possessions, just as gold is the most valuable and precious metal.

Letter from Martin Luther to Lazarus Spengler, July 8, 1530



Five Solas – What is Wrong?

These are fine concepts and have much truth, but there are some challenges and some explaining needed for the logical fallacy.

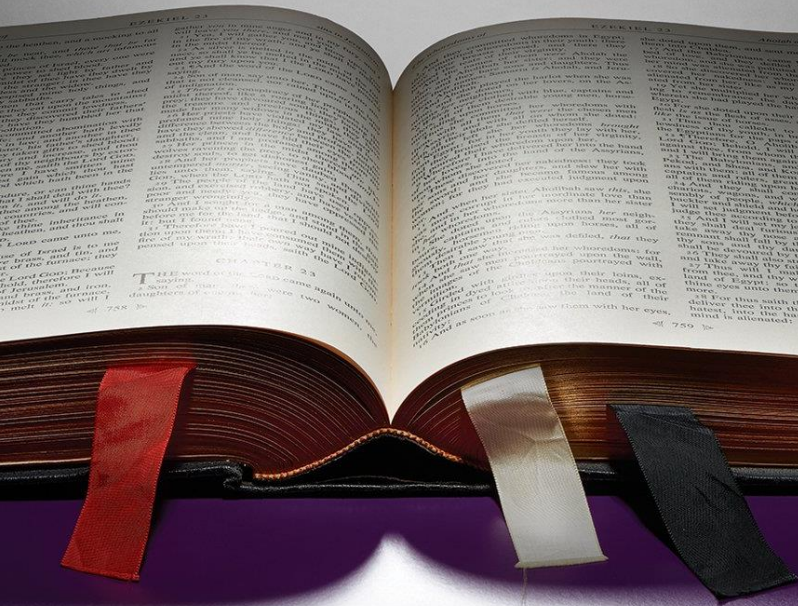
Reactive: Luther and other reformers were focused on “righting the wrongs” of the Catholic church rather than embracing all of God’s will.

Logical Issue: “Alone” for each of them means the other four aren’t required?

Omission: Taken as a group, they still omit things God asks of us, for example:

- Faith & grace – yes, see Ephesians 2:8: "For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God ..." (ESV)
- But... James 2:17: "So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead."

Sola Scriptura

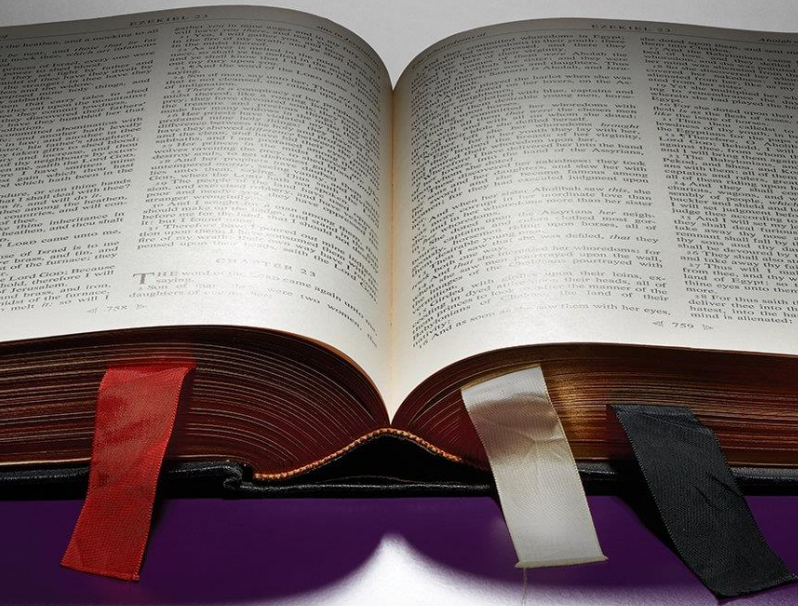


All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work. – 2 Tim 3:16-17

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 Pet 1:21

So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ. – Rom 10:17

Sola Scriptura

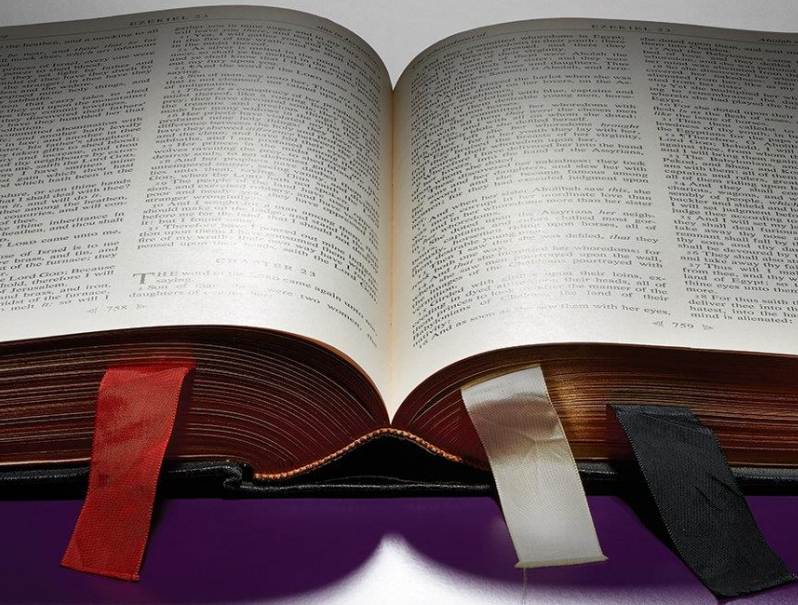


For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart – Heb 4:12

The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever – Isaiah 40:8

...knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation – 2 Pet 1:20

Sola Scriptura?



You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me, yet you refuse to come to me that you may have life.

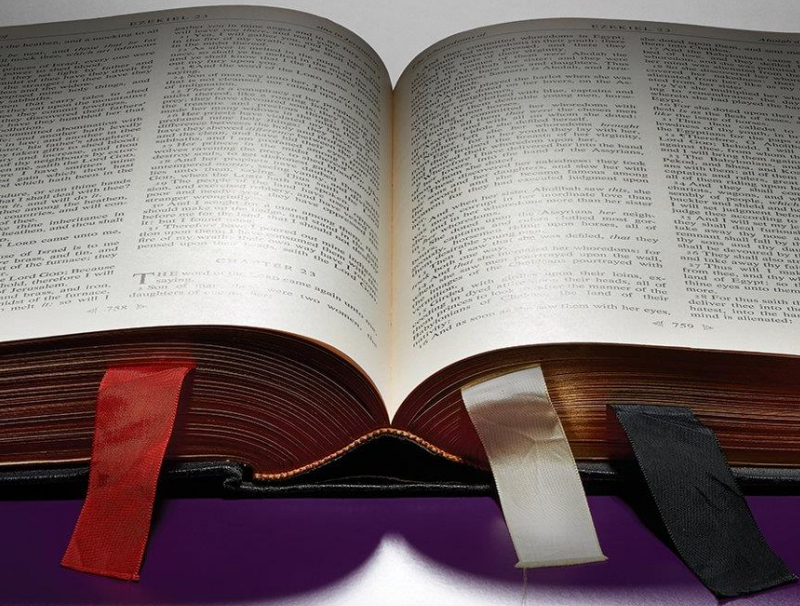
– John 5:39-40

But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. – James 1:22

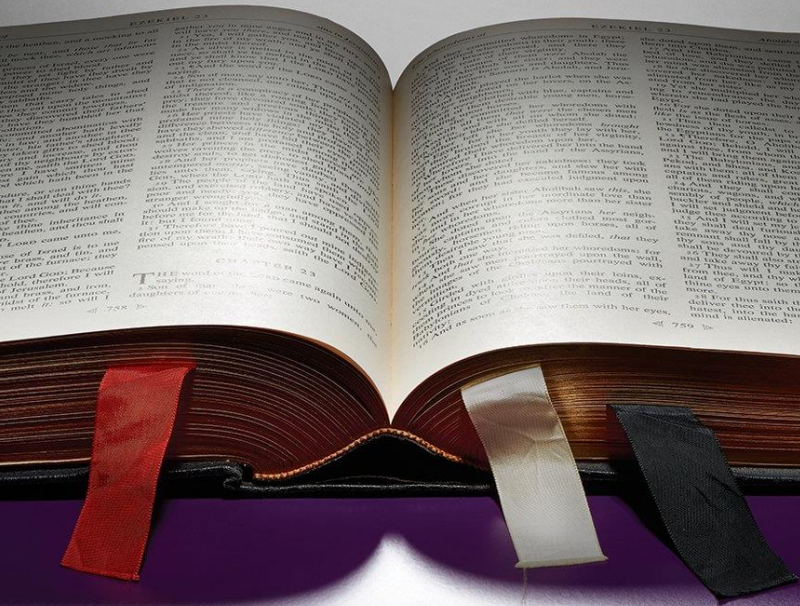
Sola Scriptura's Impact

Because of the Reformation belief that God's Word stood alone, and because of the "protest" against the Catholic marriage of Scripture and Tradition, the Bible was made much more available to everyone.

Translations into common languages became more and more frequent (at great risk to the translators and publishers!) and the expectation that people could read God's Word for themselves grew rapidly in direct response to this movement.



Sola Scriptura's Impact (and the printing press...)



1395 - English translation not widely distributed - John Wycliffe (imprisoned, and later his bones were dug up and burned)

1416 - Czech translation - Jan Hus (executed)

*** Printing press becomes common, Reformation underway*

1522 - German translation - Martin Luther (excommunicated)

1524 - Dutch translation – Jacob van Liesveldt (executed)

1526 - English translation - William Tyndale (executed)

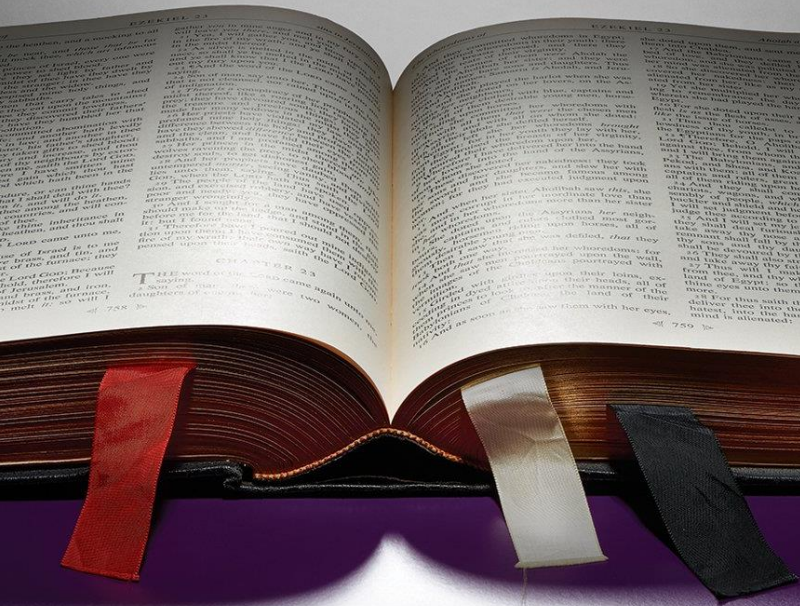
1530 - French translation

Scripture Supreme!

Scripture doesn't stand "alone" but should LEAD us to Faith, Grace, Jesus, and ultimately to Heaven.

I believe we can take God's Word as supreme in our lives.

The Scripture, God's Word, our Bible, should be the lens through which all other input is seen and the filter through which all other wisdom is sifted.



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What's next?

Four more Solas
Calvinism: TULIP
Once saved always saved?
Predestination

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Time to rescue your children and hurry back for worship!