

# Untangling The Reformation

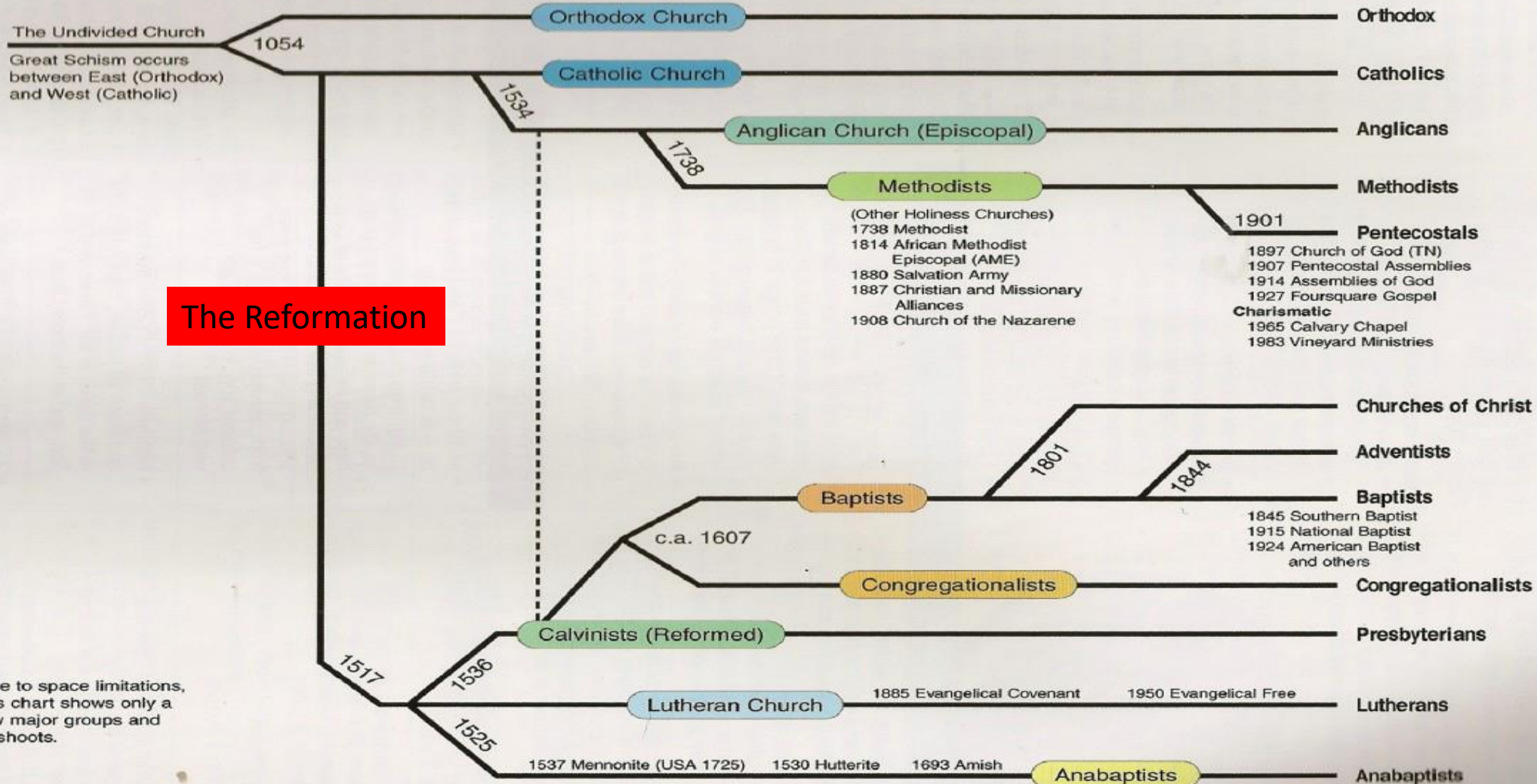
**THEME: OBEDIENT FAITH**

**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





# Luther's Reaction and Priorities – The Five Solas

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*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

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- **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.

A photograph of a person walking away from the viewer down a path lined with trees. A bright, golden light emanates from the end of the path, creating a strong backlight effect and illuminating the scene. The text is overlaid on the top left of the image.

The only thing in life that's free is  
*God's Grace*

# Sola Gratia

## Response to Catholic Church

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Council of Trent, 1545 to 1563, Canon 30. *If anyone says that after the reception of the grace of justification the guilt is so remitted and the debt of eternal punishment so blotted out to every repentant sinner, that no debt of temporal punishment remains to be discharged either in this world or in purgatory before the gates of heaven can be opened, let him be anathema.*

Which means? Grace is not sufficient, the Catholic church also required works: they seek to obey the commandments, participate in the sacraments, go to church, do penance and give alms, recite prayers and so on, in order to merit salvation. In its official writings, the Catholic Church teaches that faith is important; but it also insists on the necessity of good works to merit eternal life.

But - we know that grace underlies our entire relationship with God – without grace we have no relationship as sin separates us from God.



A photograph of a person walking away from the viewer down a path lined with trees. A bright, golden light emanates from the end of the path, creating a strong lens flare effect. The text is overlaid on the top left of the image.

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*God's Grace*

## Sola Gratia

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For it is by **grace** you have been saved, through faith - and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God - not by works, so that no one can boast. – Eph 2:8-9

... for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,  
<sup>24</sup>and all are justified freely by his **grace** through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. – Rom 3:23-24

And if by grace, then it cannot be based on works; if it were, **grace** would no longer be **grace**. – Rom 11:6



# Sola Gratia Grace is Free

We clearly depend “only” on God’s grace, and not our works.

Kind of like swimming to Hawai’i.



**“Cheap grace is  
the preaching  
of forgiveness  
without  
requiring  
repentance”**

*Dietrich Bonhoeffer*

## Sola Gratia

### Grace is Free but not Cheap

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We **repent** before forgiveness:

He told them, "This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. – Luke 24:46 – 48

And we **work** after forgiveness:

But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them - yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me. – I Cor 15:10

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Sola Gratia

Grace is Free but not Cheap

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We **repent** before forgiveness

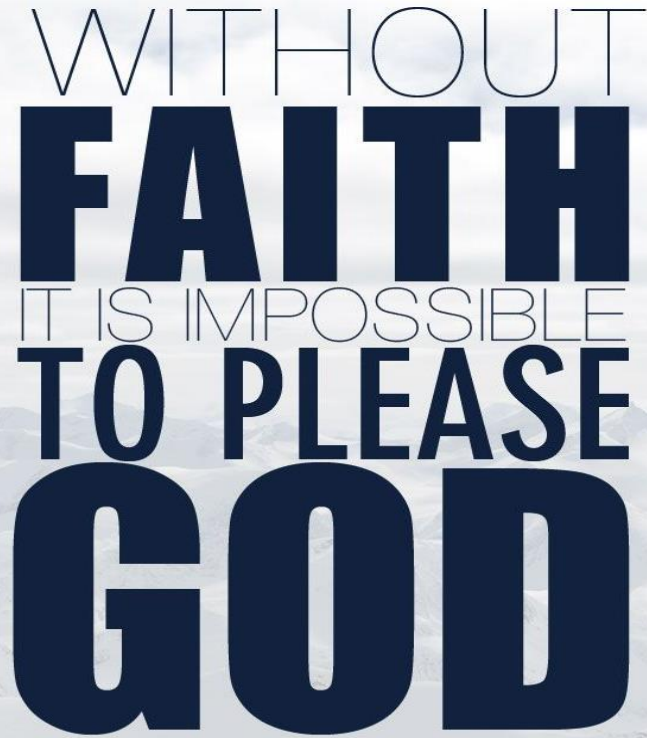
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**But — we don't earn any of our salvation by our works!**





WITHOUT  
**FAITH**  
IT IS IMPOSSIBLE  
**TO PLEASE**  
**GOD**

# Sola Fide

## Response to Catholic Church

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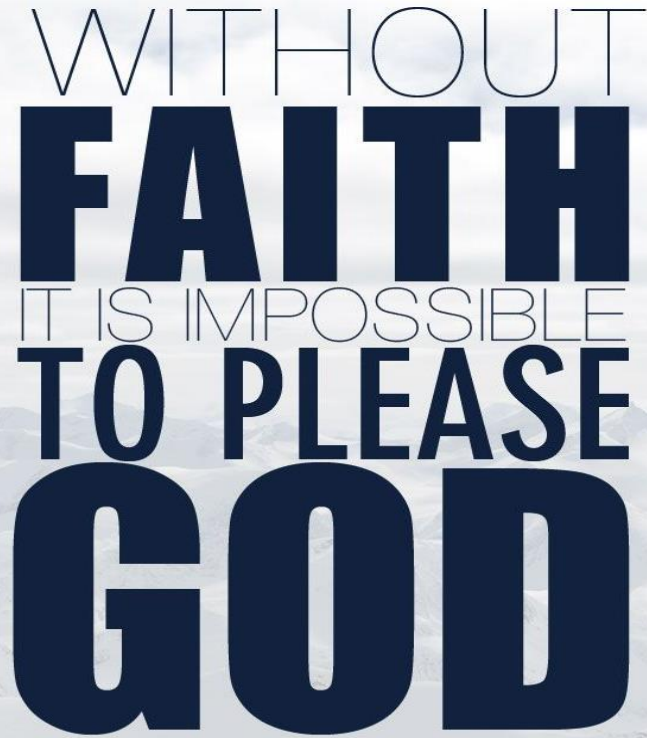
Council of Trent, 1545 to 1563, Canon 12. *If anyone says that justifying faith is nothing else than confidence in divine mercy, which remits sins for Christ's sake, or that it is this confidence alone that justifies us, let him be anathema.*

Which means? Official Catholic teaching would not allow the sinner to rely by faith on the mercy of God or to believe that his sins are forgiven for Christ's sake only. Something more is required. You must keep yourself justified by your own good works.

But - we know that grace comes through faith:

For it is by grace you have been saved, **through faith** - and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God - not by works, so that no one can boast. – Eph 2:8-9





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IT IS IMPOSSIBLE  
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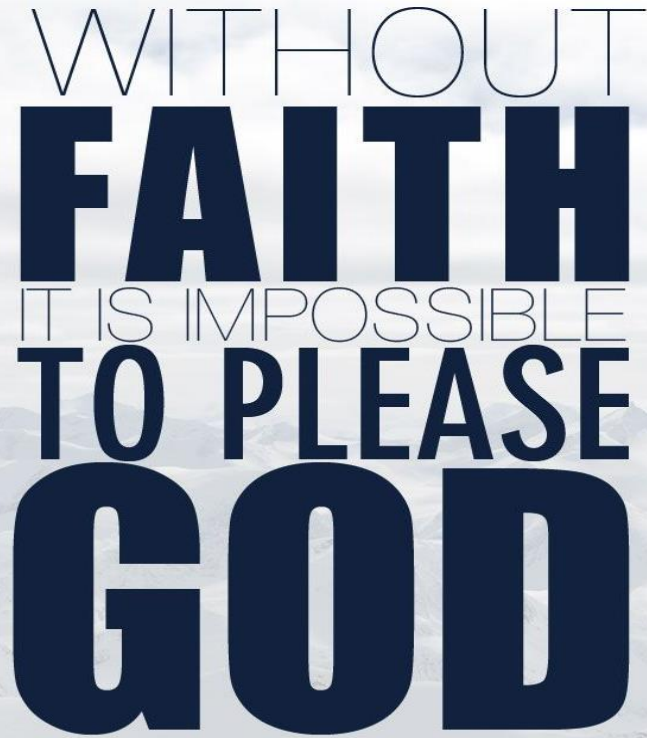
## Sola Fide

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And **without faith it is impossible to please God**, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.— Heb 11:6

For it is with your heart that you **believe and are justified**, and it is with your mouth that you **profess your faith and are saved** – Rom 10:10

So in Christ Jesus you are all **children of God through faith**, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ – Gal 3:26-27



WITHOUT  
**FAITH**  
IT IS IMPOSSIBLE  
**TO PLEASE**  
**GOD**

## Sola Fide?

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In the same way, **faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.** – James 2:17

For this very reason, make every effort to **add to your faith** goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love. – 2 Pet 1:5-7

You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the **demons believe** that-and shudder. – James 2:19

A person is standing on a sand dune in a vast desert landscape. The sky is filled with soft, white clouds, and the sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm, golden glow. The text "GOD WILL DIRECT YOUR STEPS" is overlaid in large, white, sans-serif capital letters. The person is a small silhouette in the foreground, looking out over the dunes.

GOD  
WILL  
DIRECT  
YOUR  
STEPS

PROVERBS 3:6

## Sola Fide's Impact

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Luther's key insight was that salvation was by faith alone. He wasn't the first or the only one to realize that, but because he was a brilliant writer, speaker and publicist, and the printing press was now available, his books and pamphlets spread very quickly. It's not up to the Pope or his ministers to forgive sins, he said – we trust God and we are saved.

In the Church of the day, forgiveness was obtained through doing penance – acts of charity, prayers, or self-punishment that were supposed to reinforce an inward repentance and were inseparable from it.

He realized that salvation wasn't about what we do, but about what Christ has done.

This was radical because it cut out the middle man. **Anyone, without the intervention of a priest, could repent and be saved.**

(Adapted - <https://www.eauk.org/idea/how-did-the-reformation-change-the-church.cfm>)



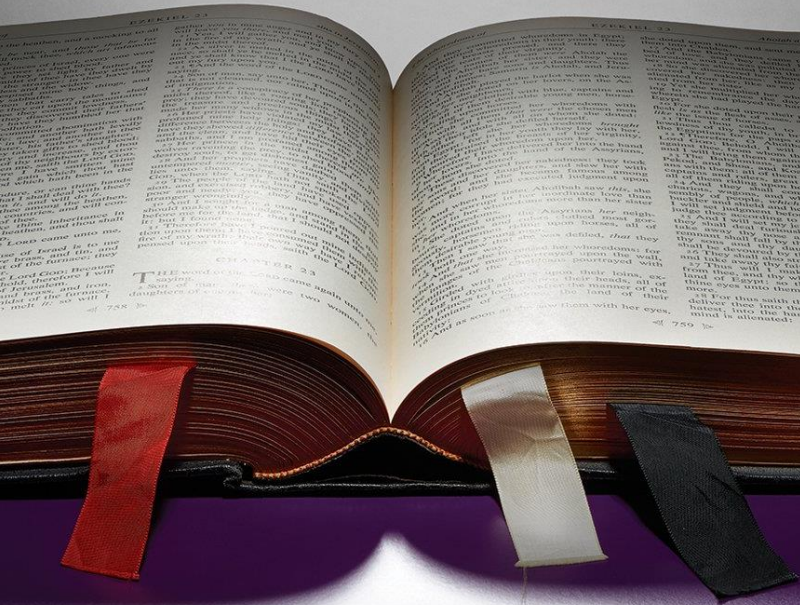
# Scripture, Grace & Faith Foundation for God to Work

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**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** can then teach us of God's **grace** and build our **faith**.



# Untangling The Reformation

What's next?

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

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# 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.





Time to rescue your children and hurry back for worship!