

Sola Scriptura

Chris Kostyk
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Sola Scriptura – What?

- Not a history lesson, but...Martin Luther
– Backbone of the Reformation: 5 Solas

Sola Scriptura – Scripture Alone	What do we go for knowledge of God?
Sola Fide – Faith Alone	How are we saved?
Sola Gratia – Grace Alone	Free will, or no choice?
Solus Christus – Christ Alone	Are other beliefs acceptable to God?
Soli Deo Gloria – God’s Glory Alone	What is the meaning of life? Anything

- Sola Scriptura is the doctrine of The Word, really. The concept of Sola Scriptura (in basic language) states that the Bible is God’s holy, perfect, sufficient, and complete Word that anybody can read since the Holy Spirit dwells in all true believers and helps them to sufficiently understand the text. Not only is no other text required, but the practice of including other texts is condemned. **(+pg 270)**

Sola Scriptura – What’s the big deal?

(1 of 2)

- Big Picture – Does God exist, and if so is Christianity “the right way”?
 - If Christianity is a sham then we are most to be pitied of all men (1 Cor 15:19)
- Smaller Picture – All groups that claim to be a denomination of Christianity (a very diverse collection) HAVE to have some stance on what the Bible is.
 - A) The sole source of truth that can be understood and applied to one’s life
 - B) An abstract text too complex to be used by the layman, incomplete and in need of supplementary material for the guidance one needs to be a Christian? (many “shades of gray” within this umbrella)
- The Bible talks about all of this – is it right, can we believe it? According to Scripture we are imperfect and can not add anything to Scripture, so we either believe it and go by it alone or don’t go by it at all. If so, all doctrinal conflicts need to be held to it (2 Cor 10:3-6)

Sola Scriptura – What’s the big deal?

(2 of 2)

- This topic is one of those that people will grab on to (as an excuse to not take God seriously, as a “gotcha” to use against Christians, or just plain “I don’t get how it could be...” ignorance and avoidance, etc.) – hopefully this series equips you all with God’s truth to do His work!
- Nothing effects our lives (and how we live them) more than our view of God – and the Biblical view of God is different than all others.
 - If we have a small view of God, we will act like it. If we have a BIG view of God, we will act like it.
- Bottom line: Sola Scriptura is a proverbial “fork in the road”. It is a major doctrine that dictates how we live our lives, as it deals with what the source for knowledge of God’s character, will, and desires for us. The source of wisdom and direction in our lives.
 - This is manifested in what decisions we make (and how we make them), what activities we do, our personal conduct in our various relationships (family to strangers), etc.

Sola Scriptura – How do we figure out if its right?

- VOLUMES have been written about it (for/against), but fortunately...
- The concept of Sola Scriptura, *by its own definition* ought to be clearly evident in scripture if it is, indeed, true.
- Furthermore, if it is true, Scripture would clearly state that the opposite doctrine is not right, and indicate the dangers of adhering to the opposite doctrine.
- On the other hand, if the Bible contained indication of encouragement, acceptability, or even so much as tolerance of the use of supplemental material then Sola Scriptura is not valid and the Bible is not the sole source for truth.
- In addition, the Bible ought to indicate one way or the other if it is for everyone, or only for those that it prescribes to function as priests/judges much as the preface of a textbook indicates that it is targeted towards those of a certain standing or level of knowledge
 - i.e. a textbook that is written for undergraduate seniors or graduate students, or a calculus textbook that indicates it is to follow algebra, with pre-calculus material in an index or something, or a volume I or II somewhere indicating that there was something before or there will/should be something after).
- *Either way*, the Bible can be counted on to either prove or disprove the veracity of both the concept of Sola Scriptura as well as its opposite – whether or not the Bible should be the sole source of truth and read by all.

Sola Scriptura – How do we figure out if it is right?

- This book claims it is different, and in this case that difference is of extreme import. It claims it is sharper than a double edged sword – handle with care!
 - **ex·e·ge·sis** - critical explanation or interpretation of a text or portion of a text, esp. of the Bible.
 - **eis·e·ge·sis** - an interpretation, esp. of Scripture, that expresses the interpreter's own ideas, bias, or the like, rather than the meaning of the text.
www.dictionary.com
- Note: using only Scripture is not circular reasoning or a veiled attempt at proving S.S. – again, by its own definition it ought to be proven or disproven by Scripture.

Sola Scriptura – Attempted Impartial Investigation

- There are even different interpretations of Sola Scriptura, so how do we know whether we believe it or not?
 - What is important to know is what topics Sola Scriptura encompasses, and then do word & topical studies to see what Scripture says about those things, then combine those results and see how well Sola Scriptura aligns with what we've found the Word to say.

What does the Bible Say About...		
Itself	God's promised Scriptural Help	What to preach/teach/instruct
Perfect/Inerrant/Complete	The Holy Spirit	The Gospel, Kingdom of God, the Word of the Lord, the Word of God, salvation, repentance
Sufficient	i. Who has Him?	
Authoritative	ii. What does He do for us?	Precepts for godly living, the reasons why
Powerful		
Canonicity		