

# Grace Christian Fellowship

Position Paper on

## The Five Solas of the Reformation

The bedrock underpinning of our Christian worldview at Grace Christian Fellowship is the four-fold foundation of the Authority of God's Word, the Sovereignty of God, the Deity of Jesus Christ, and the belief in the Trinity. The walls of our Christian doctrinal stance are what has been historically referred to as the Five Solas of the Reformation. They are as follows:

### **SOLA SCRIPTURA (Scripture Alone)**

We affirm the inerrant Scripture to be the sole source of written divine revelation, which alone can bind the conscience. The Bible alone teaches all that is necessary for our salvation from sin and is the standard by which all Christian behavior must be measured.

We deny that any creed, council or individual may bind a Christian's conscience, that the Holy Spirit speaks independently of or contrary to what is set forth in the Bible, or that personal spiritual experience can ever be a vehicle of revelation (2 Tim. 3:16-17).

### **SOLUS CHRISTUS (Christ Alone)**

We affirm that our salvation is accomplished by the mediatorial work of the historical Christ alone. His sinless life and substitutionary atonement alone are sufficient for our justification and reconciliation to the Father.

We deny that the gospel is preached if Christ's substitutionary work is not declared and faith in Christ and his work is not solicited (Hebrews 9:11-28).

### **SOLA GRATIA (Grace Alone)**

We affirm that in salvation we are rescued from God's wrath by his grace alone. It is the supernatural work of the Holy Spirit that brings us to Christ by releasing us from our bondage to sin and raising us from spiritual death to spiritual life.

We deny that salvation is in any sense a human work. Human methods, techniques or strategies by themselves cannot accomplish this transformation. Faith is not produced by our unregenerate human nature, but comes through this gift of grace (Eph 2:8-9).

### **SOLA FIDE (Faith Alone)**

We affirm that justification is by grace alone through faith alone because of Christ alone. In justification Christ's law abiding righteousness is imputed to us as the only possible satisfaction of God's perfect justice. It is by grace that we have been enabled by God's Spirit to trust in Christ's life, death and resurrection for our salvation.

We deny that justification rests on any merit to be found in us, and we deny that a person is justified through any combination of faith and human effort (Romans 3:28).

### **SOLI DEO GLORIA (Glory to God Alone)**

We affirm that because salvation is of God and has been accomplished by God, it is for God's glory and that we must glorify him always. We must live our entire lives before the face of God, under the authority of God and for his glory alone.

We deny that we can properly glorify God if our worship is confused with entertainment, if we neglect either Law or Gospel in our preaching, or if self-improvement, self-esteem or self-fulfillment are allowed to become alternatives to the gospel (1 Corinthians 10:31, 1 Peter 4:11).