

Embracing the Significance of ‘Scripture Alone’ (sola scriptura) Amidst 21st Century Challenges

Once we realize that the Reformation’s call to sola scriptura is closely related to the fact that Scripture represents unique and special revelation from our triune creator God, we have found the ultimate and supreme starting point for orienting our existence and transformation around this fact. As a consequence, we can welcome – and critically interact with – many other secondary sources of knowledge and authority (e.g. tradition, science, comparative religion, experience, and church leadership) for individual and corporate thought, life, and witness.

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I. Introduction to *Eight Appeals*

II. Definition

- A. Appreciate what sola scriptura does – and does not – mean

III. History and Challenges

- A. Remember the crucial role that *sola scriptura* played during the Reformation
- B. Become aware of the challenges *sola scriptura* has been exposed to since the rise of enlightenment rationalism
- C. Do not be afraid to ask how *sola scriptura* and the claims of the Koran relate
- D. Uphold *sola scriptura* amidst a popular over-emphasis on experience and personal opinion

IV. Foundation

- A. Realize that a key element of *sola scriptura* is the fact that Jesus, the eternal and incarnate Son of God, is the authoritative source and driving force of the culmination of Scripture in the New Testament
 - 1. *Sola scriptura* relates closely to the “source-of-revelation” question
 - 2. Jesus drives the two-pronged, core-canon of New Testament Scripture
 - a. The surprising trajectory from Jesus to the Gospels and Acts via reliable eye-witnesses
 - b. The supplemental trajectory from Jesus to the Pauline Letters via the conversion and transformation of Saul

V. Contemporary Life and Witness

- A. As you cherish the treasure of *sola scriptura*, seek communal humility in order to guard against heretical or misleading interpretations of Scripture
- B. Express your conviction of ‘*sola scriptura* as revelation’ in godly speech, transformed character, and life’s renewed relationships, in order to serve the unity of the body of Christ and its worldwide witness