



**"The Five Solas / Getting it Right from the Start"**  
**5 Solas wk. 1 – Sola Scriptura**  
**By Pastor Jody May 10/01/2023**

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**2 Peter 1:20-21**

<sup>20</sup> knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. <sup>21</sup> 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 Timothy 3:14-17**

<sup>14</sup> But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it <sup>15</sup> and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the **sacred writings**, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. <sup>16</sup> **All Scripture is breathed out by God** and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup> that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

**Hebrews 4:12-13 ESV**

<sup>12</sup> 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. <sup>13</sup> And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

**[INTRO – REVIEW]**

**1. What is Sola Scriptura.**

[Last year for Reformation month](#) we went through and studied what the acronym [TULIP](#) meant coming out of the **Canons of Dort** (religious meeting 1618-1619) which sets one up for the understanding of the basics of Reformed Theology. This year we will be revisiting another 5 essential truths, that sprang forth from the Reformation, called the **5 Solas**. Yes, we have done that before but since churches are free to do Advent every year, I think we are ok hitting the **5 Solas** as often as we like. But don't worry it won't be the same as what we have done before we have a few surprises for you.

It has been 506 years since Martin Luther posted his [95 thesis](#) on the doors of the University of Wittenberg cautioning and reprimanding the church on the practices of indulgences and its' promotion of moralistic theism. At the time of this historic event if I had to boil it all down to why it happened here's what I would tell you. By 1517 man's ability to know God, to know His character, to know His attributes, to know His will **for redemption**, had been removed from



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the world and hid behind the walls of man-made religion, much like the Sanhedrin controlled temple in Jesus’ day.

The Roman Catholic Church’s tradition, governed by a three-fold system, that included scriptures, tradition, and Magisterium (Pope verdict) had separated the revelation of God from His people. The church held a grip on the scriptures to the point that only clergy knew what they said, and that only propelled the pope into doing what he wanted to do, *“Since the pope is infallible when he speaks ‘ex cathedra’ as the one who is the successor of the Apostle Peter’s seat—all such decisions are right and good.”*<sup>1</sup>

The way of Christianity had deformed since NT times, from a practice by which all men came to Christ by the Gospel, whereby all men are found equal by their need for a Savior. Instead in its’ place, men were offered a buy-in system through indulgences and bribes to earn God’s favor, where those with coin could become more righteous than those without. It is into this dark time that Luther in his fight against the wayward will of the church turns towards the Bible as the sole voice and authority for man, not man-made traditions, not the pope, but God’s Word. Out of this battle came the **5 cries of defiance/5 Solas** that were preached in the halls of the churches and universities of those protesting against the church: **Sola Scriptura, Sola Fide, Sola Gratia, Sola Christus, and Soli deo Gloria**. All of those beliefs though, are built in the first truth we will build out today and that is **Sola Scriptura:**

*“The Scriptures alone are our supreme authority. They contain, and are sufficiently clear in teaching, all things necessary for salvation and the life of faith.”*

## **2. Why it is important to hold onto this teaching.**

Simply put, to **KNOW GOD!** Sola Scriptura helps the church to know their maker, to know His will, to know His design for mankind, to know His plan to cure sin, to know His plans for judgement, to know how He will redeem and make all things new, and to know the only man by whom we will be saved, Jesus the Christ. Sola Scriptura you see is a part of the Good News/Gospel, that God left His people the Bible by which we could Know Him, so that we are not guessing and making up these things as we go along.

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<sup>1</sup><https://g3min.org/sola-scriptura/>



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Now this is where the story gets ironic though because it seems today, that Sola Scriptura is exactly the thing that people want to get rid of! It seems people are ready to trade in what the Bible says for life and Salvation and instead **would rather deform Christianity yet AGAIN** to make it suitable for their worldly palates. This goes straight into opposition with the LBCF 1689

**London Baptist Confession of Faith 1689 Chp. 4.4<sup>2</sup>**

4. The authority of the Holy Scriptures **obligates** belief in them. This authority does not depend on the testimony of any person or church but on God the author alone, who is truth itself. Therefore, the Scriptures are to be received because they are the Word of God.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>7</sup>2 Peter 1:19-21; 2 Timothy 3:16; 1 Thessalonians 2:13; 1 John 5:9.

There are pastors of all denominations, and the statistics show that they are more of an urban setting, that would rather unhitch themselves from

**Verbal Plenary Inspiration**<sup>3</sup>: Every word (Verbal) holds God’s authority (all parts contain God’s authority), for it was all inspired by God.

**2 Peter 1:20-21**

<sup>20</sup> knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone’s own interpretation. <sup>21</sup> 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.

That makes all of the Bible inerrant, inspired, and fully sufficient for all good work (2 Tim 3:16-17).

There are those like an Andy Stanley that want to unhitch from the OT for they find no use for the Moral Code of the law, yet Jesus taught us that none of that code would be removed (Mat. 5:18).<sup>4</sup> Andy has found it too hard to ask urbanites to accept what he and them deem to be myths. Andy doesn’t believe in Sola Scriptura.

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<sup>2</sup> <https://founders.org/library/chapter-1-the-holy-scriptures/>

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.blueletterbible.org/Comm/stewart\\_don/faq/bible-authoritative-word/question3-verbal-plenary-inspiration-of-scripture.cfm](https://www.blueletterbible.org/Comm/stewart_don/faq/bible-authoritative-word/question3-verbal-plenary-inspiration-of-scripture.cfm)

<sup>4</sup> <https://albertmohler.com/2018/08/10/getting-unhitched-old-testament-andy-stanley-aims-heresy>

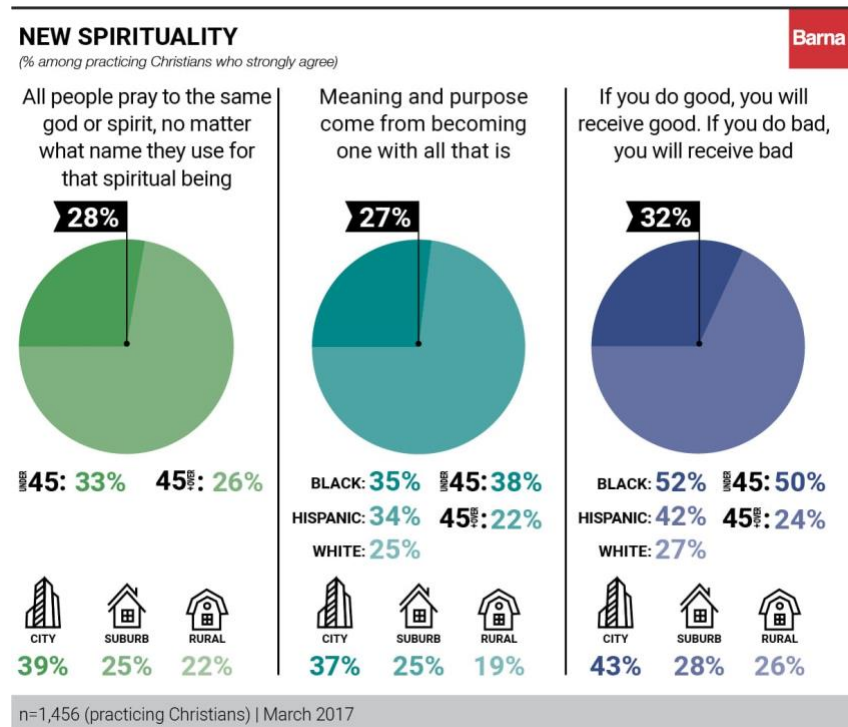


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Then there are those guys like a Pastor Colby who on [AGTV](#)<sup>5</sup> had a polite discussion with Dr. Strachan of GBTS over the inconsiderateness of Christians and their stance towards the LGBTQ community.<sup>6</sup> It was supposed to highlight the difference in beliefs between a progressive Christian and a conservative Christian. Bottom line Pastor Colby didn’t believe in scripture, in its’ authority, and rejected Genesis 1-3, and instead bought into evolutionistic theories not just on creation but on morality (where the divine manifests itself from within not from without)<sup>7</sup>. Pastor Colby doesn’t believe in Sola Scriptura.

Here’s why all of that is scary. Andy and Colby are not the exceptions, no not at all, they seem to be what is becoming the norm.

**Barna research shows that at least 61% of Practicing Christian embrace at least one idea of New Spirituality (modern views of spiritual matters).<sup>8</sup>**



<sup>5</sup> AGTV exists to guard and proclaim the biblical gospel of Christ crucified, and to provide Christians and their local churches with resources to refute the errors of the “American Gospel”.

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.watchagtv.com/videos/do-christians-harm-lgbtq-people-progressive-vs-conservative-christian-part-3>

<sup>7</sup> [Evolutionary Biology, Religion and Happiness / Dr. Gad Saad Ep 377 of the Jordan B Peterson Podcast July 27, 2023: https://youtu.be/PTq6CYfikbg?si=7f-Cmyn6oPUMydnV](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PTq6CYfikbg?si=7f-Cmyn6oPUMydnV)

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.barna.com/research/competing-worldviews-influence-todays-christians/>



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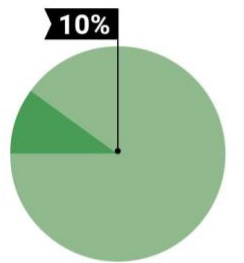
**Researchers also found at least 29 percent of practicing Christians believe at least one of these following secular statements.**

**SECULARISM**

(% among practicing Christians who strongly agree)



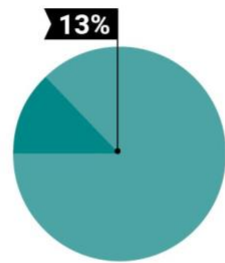
A belief has to be proven by science to know it is true



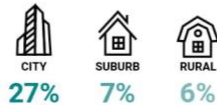
♂: 14%    UNDER 45: 25%  
 ♀: 7%      45+: 3%



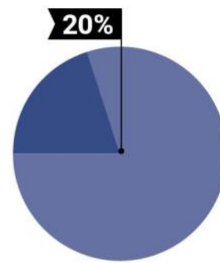
A person's life is valuable only if society sees it as valuable



♂: 16%    UNDER 45: 28%  
 ♀: 11%    45+: 7%



Meaning and purpose come from working hard to earn as much as possible so you can make the most of life



HISPANIC: 27%    UNDER 45: 37%  
 BLACK: 24%    45+: 12%  
 WHITE: 18%



n=1,456 (practicing Christians) | March 2017

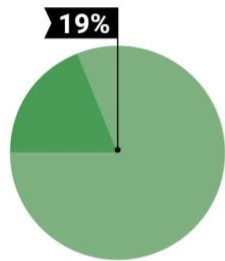
**As a whole, more than half (54%) of practicing Christians embrace at least one of the postmodern statements assessed in the research.**

**POSTMODERNISM**

(% among practicing Christians who strongly agree)



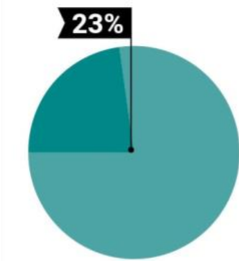
No one can know for certain what meaning and purpose there is to life



♂: 22%    UNDER 45: 32%  
 ♀: 16%    45+: 13%



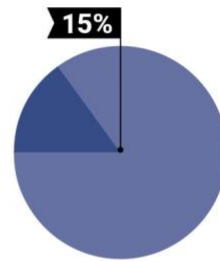
What is morally right or wrong depends on what an individual believes



🎓: 31%    UNDER 45: 37%  
 HIGH SCHOOL OR LESS    45+: 16%  
 🎓: 21%  
 COLLEGE GRADUATE



If your beliefs offend someone or hurt their feelings, it is wrong



BLACK: 22%    UNDER 45: 29%  
 HISPANIC: 17%    45+: 8%  
 WHITE: 13%



n=1,456 (practicing Christians) | March 2017



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**Another Barna research found:<sup>9</sup>**

Based on interviews with 601 Senior Pastors nationwide, representing a random cross-section of Protestant churches, Barna reports that **only half of the country’s Protestant pastors – 51% – have a biblical worldview.** Defining such a worldview as believing that absolute moral truth exists, that it is based upon the Bible, and having a biblical view on six core beliefs (the accuracy of biblical teaching, the sinless nature of Jesus, the literal existence of Satan, the omnipotence and omniscience of God, salvation by grace alone, and the personal responsibility to evangelize), the researcher produced data showing that there are significant variations by denominational affiliation and other demographics.

This brings us to this **conclusion** brought to us by the **Ligonier’s State of Theology**<sup>10</sup> study that is summed up in these 2 facts, that almost half of the Christians they surveyed believed:

- that the Bible is inaccurate, and
- that modern science disproves the Bible.

**The church is quickly devolving because our faith is deforming because our seminaries and pastors are crumbling to the pressures of a very secular society.** Again, we are in a crossroads where is not only necessary to hold to this view of Sola Scriptura, but I believe that it is necessary to show that these truths were not developed just in the minds of our Reformation forefathers but that they have been with us ever since the beginning. I want us to see that these truths existed pre-reformation, pre-NT times, and that you can find these things necessary for the Christian life, in the book of Genesis. Because many of the beliefs that are challenged today, that people don’t accept anymore, come from the book of Genesis.

Here’s where that comes from, and it’s a demonic ploy, the NT writers were not that smart yet, they didn’t have science, philosophy, and anthropology to help them determine what was truth. What you need to know is that it never mattered to them what the world thought about God and His revelation in Jesus Christ, they accepted ALL Scripture as TRUE!

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<sup>9</sup> <https://www.barna.com/research/only-half-of-protestant-pastors-have-a-biblical-worldview/>

<sup>10</sup> <https://thestateoftheology.com/data-explorer/2022/17?AGE=30&MF=14&REGION=30&DENSITY=62&EDUCATION=62&INCOME=254&MARITAL=126&ETHNICITY=62&RELTRAD=62&EVB=6&ATTENDANCE=254>



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**Colossians 2:8 ESV**

See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ.

So, we too cannot fold under the pressure of human traditions, liberal theology and its' claims of the writers wrote a Bible not suitable for today, OR we will just continue deforming ourselves allowing our light to grow dim.

God placed these things in the Bible's beginnings for God knew they were necessary for you to know Him. You cannot separate these things from scripture, and you cannot unhitch from the OT, or you devalue these truths. If you devalue these truths, you remove the bedrock on which the church has been built, Christ, for how can we ever know if we have ever truly found Him **IF** you question the authority, inerrancy, and sufficiency of scripture? Simple answer, you can't.... So, **Let's get it right from the Start, from Genesis...**

**3. What are the fundamentals that we cannot surrender.**

**God determines what is profitable not us.**

**2 Timothy 3:14-17**

<sup>14</sup> But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it <sup>15</sup> and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the **sacred writings**, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. <sup>16</sup> **All Scripture is breathed out by God** and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup> that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

In this text the Apostle Paul is encouraging Timothy, for he will go on and become a prominent leader in the Christian church. Paul is most likely writing this letter from a Roman jail cell and knows the only way he is leaving is through death's door. He's ok with that, but in case Timothy can't get to him in time for one more visit he wants to make sure and communicate some last thoughts for his disciple.



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Paul wants Timothy to know the source from his childhood whereby he gained basic truths, that he should not depart from them for they are things that are **unchanging**. He says in v.15 that there are the **sacred writings** that you have become acquainted with. Whatever these sacred writings are Paul sees them as profitable for all of human life.

If you remember **Paul recruited Timothy** in the first parts of Acts 16 because of his background (Jewish) and learning. Most likely his mother and grandmother were converted Jews from Acts 14 in Lystra. This means that the **Sacred Writings** here in 2 Tim 3:15 **are the OT**. That also points to all the things that Paul has already taught on in all his epistles, including Romans, he has gotten from the OT. So, Paul is saying to Timothy you **don’t unhitch from the OT** for it is the cart by which the Gospel makes sense. The Gospel is the Gospel because it offers a way to escape judgement and condemnation that is revealed through the teaching of the OT.

This is where the world begins to roll its’ eyes towards us. You can’t expect us to take the OT seriously let alone literally.

- God in the OT allowed for slavery so aren’t the OT teachings ‘racist’.<sup>11</sup>
- God can’t be against monogamist love even if it is between same sex.<sup>12</sup>
- God did not create the world in 6 days, too much evidence against that.<sup>13</sup>
- God in no way flooded the whole world and put animals on the ark.<sup>14</sup>
- God didn’t really cause a global dispersion at the Tower of Babel.<sup>15</sup>

What you will find after reading the research is that the answers are in scripture. People don’t like to hear that because they want to define what is profitable for themselves, but the truth is God’s Word, the NT and the OT, are profitable for man and are fully sufficient for all of life. God has determined what is best for us, for God does not come from within us but He is from without.

He sent the Son to us so we could know Him and understand that He is not of this world (Jn 3:16).

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<sup>11</sup> <https://answersingenesis.org/bible-questions/doesnt-the-bible-support-slavery/>

<sup>12</sup> <https://answersingenesis.org/family/homosexuality/>

<sup>13</sup> <https://answersingenesis.org/days-of-creation/>

<sup>14</sup> <https://answersingenesis.org/the-flood/>

<sup>15</sup> <https://answersingenesis.org/tower-of-babel/>





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- The Son lived a **predestined** life fulfilling all the prophecies in the OT.
- The Son lived a **perfect** life completing the requirements of the OT; law and covenantal requirements.
- The Son lived a **protectorate** life watching over us and leading us as the new Adam, our true King.

If you unhitch from the OT, you remove all of that from Christ and you remove your need from Him. God has determined what is profitable for us, His Word, from the beginning which tells us of our need for a Savior.

**God defines our existence not us.**

Another fundamental of Sola Scripture we cannot surrender is that God defines for us who we are, we don't do that for ourselves. So, if all scripture is God-breathed and profitable then how Genesis defines us is profitable for us, let's see what we got.

**Day 1-5**

<sup>3</sup>And **God said**, “Let there be light,” and there was light. <sup>4</sup>And God saw that the light was good.

<sup>6</sup>And **God said**, “Let there be an expanse in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.”

<sup>9</sup>And **God said**, “Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear. <sup>11</sup>And God said, “Let the earth sprout vegetation, plants yielding seed, and fruit trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind, on the earth.” And it was so.

<sup>14</sup>And **God said**, “Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night. And let them be for signs and for seasons, and for days and years, <sup>15</sup>and let them be lights in the expanse of the heavens to give light upon the earth.” And it was so.

<sup>20</sup>And **God said**, “Let the waters swarm with swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the heavens.”



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<sup>24</sup> And **God said**, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures according to their kinds—livestock and creeping things and beasts of the earth according to their kinds." And it was so.

<sup>26</sup> Then **God said**, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

<sup>27</sup> So God created man in **his own image**,  
in the image of God he created him;  
male and female he created them.

<sup>31</sup> And **God saw everything** that he had made, and behold, it **was very good**.  
And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

**Sola Scriptura defines it likes this for us:**

First, **God made everything by the Words of His mouth**, it is God breathed, creations was divinely inspired, therefore it is not random and not a manifestation of a man conceived idea of a Big Bang theory.

Second, **the earth is not billions of years old** and while it is hard to grasp because of the attack of secular scientists on Genesis 1-11, BUT God's Word portrays a young earth existence and creation. Which science can confirm and has less holes in that theory as compared to when it tries to define and explain old earth theory and evolutionary theories.

Thirdly, **God made animals and man on the same day but distinguished them from each other**. There is **more value applied to man** for God created Him in the image of Himself. We do not share equality with other things in nature, creation was made for us to help us live. The innate value of man does not come from within man, it comes from God, and how he was formed from God's image.

**Genesis 2**



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<sup>7</sup> then the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature.

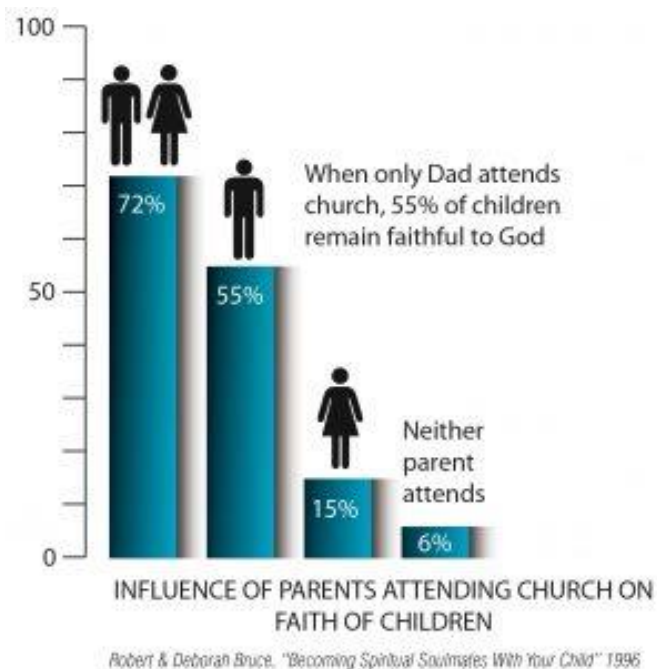
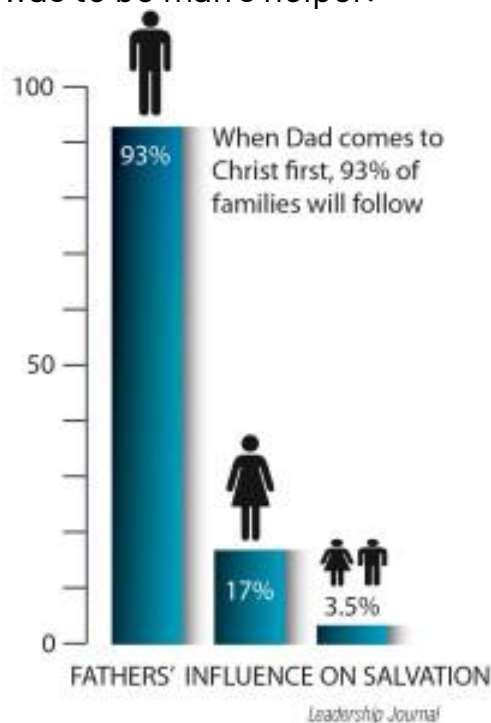
<sup>22</sup> And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. <sup>23</sup> Then the man said,

"This at last is bone of my bones  
and flesh of my flesh;  
she shall be called Woman,  
because she was taken out of Man."

<sup>24</sup> Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. <sup>25</sup> And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

Fourthly, **God made two different sexes** that are biologically different with 2 XX chromosomes and an XY chromosome; biology matters not self-determined will.

Fifthly, **the intent was that they should be together**, that the female while being created in God's image coming from Adam and having all the same freedoms and rights as men, still had a specific role towards men and that was to be man's helper.





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What this supports, **with the creation of male-headship by God**, is that the family, even in the fallen state, functions at a high level. Current research shows that when a dad comes to Christ first, that 93% of the family will follow as compared to only 17% if the mother does.<sup>16</sup>

God’s Word Defines us, and it is good that it does for it works better when we let it!

Now these revelations and truths from just Gen 1-2 will take us to the problem we are having now, and by defining the problem perhaps we will be more aware when deception comes our way.

### **Genesis 3**

<sup>1</sup>Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God actually say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden’?”

The Serpent, or the Devil. Look what he does, he doesn’t deny the existence of God, nor the power of God, he just places doubt in your mind, by going after what one desires. He tries to get you to look past what was actually said by God.

<sup>4</sup>But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. <sup>5</sup>For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.

Then the devil lies and gives us false information to make us justify the lust in our hearts. The devil gets us to believe that the divine comes from within not from without, that we make up our own rules, that we are the justifiers of our actions. That’s what got him kicked out of Heaven and it is how he wants to see you fall.

Sola Scripture defines us as idolatry junkies as Calvin so eloquently put it: “We may infer that the human mind is so to speak, a perpetual forge of idols.”<sup>17</sup>

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<sup>16</sup> <https://promisekeepers.org.nz/mensministry/>

<sup>17</sup> <https://www.thenewatlantis.com/text-patterns/the-factory-of-idols>



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**Sixthly**, you **have an enemy that is the Devil**, and he knows exactly how to tempt you and has had success at it for multiple millennia.

**Seventh**, we need to understand that the **desire of our hearts** is what **gets us in trouble**, as the prophet **Jeremiah 17:9 ESV** "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?"

**God delivers our hope not us.**

**Genesis 3:15 & 21 ESV**

<sup>15</sup> I will put enmity between you and the woman,  
and between your offspring and her offspring;  
he shall bruise your head,  
and you shall bruise his heel."

<sup>21</sup> And the LORD God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them.

What can we do about this dilemma? Absolutely nothing because the **divine does not exist within us!** What can God do? Everything, for our rebellion was not from under His Sovereignty!

God hints at a plan, in 3:15 a promise of one who will finish the fight that the serpent started. God then hints at a strategy in 3:21 by covering Adam and Eve's skin by sacrificing a part of His creation first.

**Genesis 6:18 ESV**

But I will establish my **covenant** with you, and you shall come into the ark, you, your sons, your wife, and your sons' wives with you.

God introduces man to a covenant process by which God acts first to ensure man's security and establishes promises for man's future.

**Genesis 8:21 ESV**

<sup>21</sup> And when the LORD smelled the pleasing aroma, the LORD said in his heart, "I **will never again curse the ground because of man**, for the intention of man's heart is evil from his youth. Neither will I ever again strike down every living creature as I have done.



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**By Pastor Jody May 10/01/2023**

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So, God establishes a covenant not to destroy the earth preserving Adam's line until that offspring would come from 3:15.

**Genesis 12:1 ESV**

**12** Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. <sup>2</sup> And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. <sup>3</sup> I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

Then God makes this promise all the way in Genesis 12 that reaches all the way to our present day. God has provided through Abraham a descendent that has blessed all the nations of the earth.

What Sola Scriptura delivers us even from Genesis is that there is a **HOPE for Salvation**, that does not come from within us, by our works, but will culminate and be **exalted in the Lordship and reign of Christ!** BUT if we don't hold to the value of Sola Scripture and we don't get it right from the start **in GENESIS**, then we have no reason to search for Christ, we have no reason to believe our heart is easily deceived, we have no reason to believe in a devil, and we have no reason to accept what God has created for us as GOOD!

**[CHALLENGE]**

**Hebrews 4:12-13 ESV**

<sup>12</sup> 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. <sup>13</sup> And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

- Today here is the simple challenge for us, let us accept the authority of God's Word and take it for what it says, going all the way back to the beginning.
- Let's take and understand that God's Word is not always the easiest to digest because it is sharp and causes us to react to the sin in us that needs to be removed is exposed.



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- Let's take it and understand that God left it for us, so it would reveal to us His truths to determine what is profitable for us, to define our existence for us, so that it may deliver hope to us in His Son.

**Let God's Word define who you are and let US stop coming to it with preconceived notions.**

**[PRAYER]**

**[COMMUNION]**

**[BENEDICTION]**

Go in the name of the Father, that has left us all that we need to know to discover who He is for all of life, His Word.

Go in the name of the Son, that fulfilled all of scripture including Genesis, so that we may know we can trust ALL of the Bible to light out way.

Go in the name and power of the Holy Spirit, that will keep conferring to us the truth of Scripture, increasing our faith, and emboldening us to share this good news with others.