

Sola Fide

Intro

Key person of the Reformation is Luther

A priest who lectured on Psalms, Galations and Romans

Key passages for him

Gen 15:6: And he believed the Lord; and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness.

Gal 3:1-7: ...6 Just as Abraham "believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness," 7 so, you see, those who believe are the descendants of Abraham.

Rom 4:1-5 4 Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. 5 But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

and other passages

Key complaint against Churches practice

Penance in order to pay for your sins to be forgiven

By either doing things, like prayers

Or by paying someone else (like a priest) to do this

Luther taught

that salvation and, consequently, eternal life are not earned by good deeds but are received only as the free gift of God's grace through the believer's faith in Jesus Christ as redeemer from sin

A number of these principles are codified in five Sola's

Sola fide, Sola scriptura, Sola gratia, Sola Christo and Soli Deo Glory

By Luther or by other reformers

We are looking at these over the next weeks

Starting with Sola Fide

Each of these look at a different aspect of our Christian faith

And we also may see some of the nuances - as why are there many solas, 'alone by's -

It is not alone anymore

But on the other hand they are easy rememberable and give a key aspects of our faith

Sola Fide - by faith alone

Verse by verse exploration of passage of Romans

Summary:

we are justified by our faith in Christ

So we can not look at our own merits

we cannot say that we are saved because we are law abiding

We cannot say that we are saved because we belong to a certain group

We are saved because we believe in Jesus Christ

But...

If you read this, then you can think: O, I only need to believe, and then I can do what I like, as I will still be saved

We can sin - because we are forgiven

The bible is never black and white

There is always another or more dimensions

See Hebrews

Hebrews: throw of everything that hinders and sin

Hebrews however seems to say something different

run the race with perseverance

fixing our eyes on Jesus

following in his example

pioneer and perfecter of our faith

To achieve our goal to sit with him

Why: he was sin-less - follow that

And he did endure the cross

And sits now at the right hand of the Father

Taking Jesus as example: not to grow weary and lose heart

Even to struggle against sin

to the point of shedding blood

How do we reconcile the two view points

Does Sola Fide not the whole story then

Why does the bible say in one hand that we are saved by our faith

And on the other hand that we have to run this race?

Faith = relationship

I think the question is what is faith

There is knowledge of what Jesus has done for us

Believe - yes this is a true story

But it is also true that Columbus discovered America

But that does not affect me

Personal relationship

But there is another way to believe

Because if you believe that Jesus died for our sins

Then this cannot but affect our whole life

It is not a theological question anymore

But it becomes a relationship question

He he died for us - because he loved us so much

If you believe that - then that means that you will have to love him back

And although we are saved - sola fide

It is not enough - not for ourselves

We cannot ignore it - we need to change our lives to a commitment to follow Jesus

To follow where he led

To lay aside everything that hinders and entangles

as that would make having a relationship with Jesus more difficult

Avoid instead of fix

Show Jesus you care

That is the race - to follow him

Not because we have to, but because
we want to and because he calls us to

So that in that way we can work with
him to bring more people to him

And extend the kingdom

And this can be costly

But it is price worth paying