

FIVE REFORMATION SOLAS

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Study 5—Soli Deo Gloria

To God Alone be the Glory. The word *glory* in Hebrew OT is derived from 'weight'. Value of gold coin determined by weight. To have weight means to have value or worth. The Greek word for *glory* meant 'opinion'. The value or worth our opinion assigns to someone or something. The Hebrew word God's value or worth inherent in Him. The Greek idea means the value revealed in God's Word and works. Both testaments regard glory as both shown and given; our response of adoration to the moral excellence of His character in worship, 24/7. *The whole earth is full of His glory; Isaiah 6:3.*

The greatest display of God's glory is through His Son: *The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified His servant Jesus, the One whom you delivered up, and disowned in the presence of Pilate, when he had decided to release Him; Acts 3:13.*

The Reformation was a call for real & Biblical Christianity, an attempt to escape medieval corruption of faith through renewal and reform. a radical message for that day (and should be for ours) because it called for an entirely God-centred view of faith and life. So, to glorify God is to magnify Him in every area of worship; 24/7. God's glory is the outshining of His character; who He is in all holiness, love, truth, goodness, righteousness.

The Larger & Smaller Westminster Catechism Q1; What is the chief & highest end of man? 'Man's chief and highest end is to glorify God and fully enjoy Him forever.' We do this by all our words & actions. The truth that we are designed to be; *for the praise of His glory and grace; **Ephesians 1:6, 12, 14.*** Living for God's glory is self-effacing, but not self-defacing. We come into our true humanity when living for God's glory, because in that we are fulfilling the greatest command to love the Lord our God, for all He does is good.

Jesus the Son lives for the glory of his Father, while the Father works to give glory to the Son; **Philippians 2:1-11.** He calls on the Father to Glorify his (the Father's) name; **John 12:28,** while also receiving the glory given him by the Father; **John 17:5.** This dynamic of true Sonship becomes ours in that Jesus expresses this not only as the eternal Son, but also as the true Man. In Christ, we await a glory that will be given to us as the children of

God; a reflected glory, as will be in the likeness of the Son; our glory will represent the true glory of God to one another and to creation. **Psalm 103:1-5 & 17-22**. English non-conformist Puritan, Thomas Watson: (1620-1686). "God's glory is such an essential part of His being, that He cannot be God without it."

The call to believers to do everything to the glory of God cuts across our culture of self; of me-ism; what's in it for me; selfies; my prestige. The Gospel of Christ crucified and risen both enables and commands us to no longer live for ourselves but for him: **1 Peter 4:11**; *Whoever speaks, let him speak, as it were, the utterances of God; whoever serves, let him do so by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.*

Our good works are to bring focus not on ourselves, but to lead people to praise our Father as we do works alongside proclaiming the Gospel. **Romans 11:36**; *For from (of) Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory. Amen.* God is alone the source of all things; everything has its origin or cause in Him. He alone sustains all He created; He alone holds the entire universe and all things exist for His glory. --- BE REAL!!

How do we glorify God? By running to Christ for forgiveness and having His nature restored to us. By praising, worshipping, delighting in the triune God as Creator, Provider, Redeemer. By trusting Him in all things and being zealous for His glory, knowing that His Holy Spirit is conforming us to the image of His Son. **Soli Deo Gloria** is our highest and greatest desire.

John Calvin: 'He is the source of all things in that they have proceeded from Him; He is the Creator. He is the agent through whom all things subsist and are directed to their proper end. And He is the last end to whose glory all things redound'.

Jonathan Edwards: 'The greatest moments of my life have not been those that have concerned my own salvation, but those when I have been carried into communion with God and beheld His beauty and desired His glory...'

SOLI DEO GLORIA

