

Soli Deo Gloria

(To God be the glory Alone)

Key Issue / Question

Soli Deo Gloria is a doxology: an expression of praise to God.
It is an outcome of the preceding 4 Solas.

Point of Contention

Teaching of Rome	Teaching of the Reformation
<p>IF the preceding 4 Solas are not upheld:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• If Scripture is subject to the Church, rather than the Church to Scripture• If Salvation is<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ By Grace + My Merit (however little it is)○ Through Faith + My Works (however small it is)• If Grace is Mediated through Christ + the Church via Popes, Priests, Saints, Mary, (rather than only through Christ alone), <p>THEN God gets some of the glory and Man gets some of the glory.</p> <p>It does not detract one bit even if you rehash it to say that: God gets most of the glory and Man gets a tiny bit of the glory.</p> <p>The point is that God DOES NOT GET ALL OF THE GLORY. Man robs the glory from God, even if it is just robbing a little of it.</p>	<p>IF the preceding 4 Solas are upheld:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• If the Church is subject to the authority of Scripture• If Salvation is<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ By Grace Alone○ Through Faith Alone• If Grace is Mediated through Christ Alone <p>THEN salvation from start to finish is all of God.</p> <p>God gets all of the glory and man gets none of it.</p> <p>Soli Deo Gloria: To God be the Glory ALONE.</p>

Comment:

Soli Deo Gratia is easier said than truly embraced in the heart.

Because the logical flip-side of Soli Deo Gloria is the confession that **Man gets no glory at all.**

“Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts.” (Isa 6:5)

“I have sinned against heaven, and before thee, and am no more worthy to be called thy son” (Luke 15:18-21)

This woe-is-me self-indictment and this no-more-worthy posture of the heart is a difficult pill to swallow. It is totally contrary to the gospel of self-esteem in this day and age.

But when regeneration is effected by God in the soul, then man is brought to see that he is spiritually bankrupt, destitute and totally depraved before God, and that is when man comes before God with a broken and a contrite spirit.

Soli Deo Gloria means that we confess "Man is nothing" with as much force as "God is everything".

Westminster Standards

- **WSC 1:** What is the chief end of man?
A: Man's chief end is to **GLORIFY GOD, and to enjoy him for ever.**
- **WSC 7:** What are the decrees of God?
A: The decrees of God are, his eternal purpose, according to the counsel of his will, whereby, **FOR HIS OWN GLORY**, he hath foreordained whatsoever comes to pass.
- **WSC 46:** What is required in the first commandment?
A. The first commandment requireth us to know and acknowledge God to be the only true God, and our God; and to worship and **GLORIFY HIM** accordingly.

- **WSC 107:** What doth the conclusion of the Lord's Prayer teach us?
A: The conclusion of the Lord's Prayer, which is, "For thine is the kingdom, and the power, **AND THE GLORY**, for ever, Amen", teacheth us to take our encouragement in prayer from God only, and in our prayers to praise him, **ascribing kingdom, power, and GLORY to him**; and, in testimony of our desire, and assurance to be heard, we say, Amen.
- **WCF 3.3:** By the decree of God, **for the manifestation of his glory**, some men and angels are predestinated unto everlasting life, and others foreordained to everlasting death.
- **WCF 3.5:** Those of mankind that are predestinated unto life, God, before the foundation of the world was laid, according to his eternal and immutable purpose, and the secret counsel and good pleasure of his will, hath chosen in Christ, unto everlasting glory, out of his free grace and love alone, without any foresight of faith or good works, or perseverance in either of them, or any other thing in the creature, as conditions, or causes moving him thereunto; and all **to the praise of his glorious grace**.
- **WCF 3.7:** The rest of mankind, God was pleased, according to the unsearchable counsel of his own will, whereby he extendeth or withholdeth mercy as he pleaseth, **for the glory of his sovereign power over his creatures**, to pass by, and to ordain them to dishonour and wrath for their sin, **to the praise of his glorious justice**.

Scriptural Proofs

- **[Rom 11:33-36]** O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out! For who hath known the mind of the Lord? or who hath been his counsellor? Or who hath first given to him, and it shall be recompensed unto him again? For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things: to whom be glory for ever. Amen.
- **[Matt 6:13]** And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

- **[Rev 4:11]** Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.
- **[Rev 5:12]** Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing.
- **[Isa 42:8]** I am the Lord: that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images.

Other Quotations

- *Thomas Watson, Body of Divinity:*
What are we to understand by God's glory? There is a twofold glory: [1] The glory that God has in himself, his intrinsic glory. Glory is essential to the Godhead, as light is to the sun: he is called the 'God of Glory' (Acts 7:2)... [2] The glory which is ascribed to God, or which his creatures labour to bring to him. 'Give unto the Lord the glory due unto his name' (1 Chron. 16:29)
What is it to glorify God? Glorifying God consists in four things: 1. Appreciation, 2. Adoration, 3. Affection, 4. Subjection. This is the yearly rent we pay to the crown of heaven.
- *Calvin's Institutes, Book 3, Chapter 7, Section 1:*
 "The great point, then, is, that we are consecrated and dedicated to God, and, therefore, should not henceforth think, speak, design, or act, without a view to his glory."
- *R. C. Sproul:*
 "We do not segment our lives, giving some time to God, some to our business or schooling, while keeping parts to ourselves. **The idea is to live all of our lives in the presence of God, under the authority of God, and for the honour and glory of God.** That is what the Christian life is all about."