

The Five Solas of The Reformation



“Grace Alone”

Eph. 2:8-10

Ephesians 2:8-10



For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God –⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast. ¹⁰ For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. (NIV)

Catholic Grace



☞ Grace is favor, the free and undeserved help that God gives us to respond to his call to become children of God, adoptive sons, partakers of the divine nature and of eternal life.

Catholic Grace (cont)



✻ The preparation of man for the reception of grace is already a work of grace. This is needed to arouse and sustain our collaboration in justification through faith and in sanctification through good works.

Catholic Grace (cont)



✧ We can have merit in God's sight only because of God's plan to associate man with the work of his grace. Merit is to be ascribed in the first place to the grace of God, and secondly to man's collaboration. Man's merit is due to God's grace.

Catholic Baptism



∞ In Catholic theology justification is a term that means the cleansing of sin in a person, and the communication by grace of "the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ (Romans 3:22)" **through Baptism.**

Catholic Baptism (cont)



☞ Sanctifying grace, the grace that infuses life into the soul, is also received through the sacrament of Baptism. Therefore Baptism marks the **beginning** of both justification and sanctification by forgiving all personal and original sin (1 Cor. 5:21) *God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. NIV*

Sacraments



Seven rites by which grace is efficaciously applied: Baptism, Eucharist, Confirmation, Reconciliation (confession), Anointing of the sick, Marriage, Holy orders (ordination)

Sacraments (Cont)



☞ CANON IV. Council of Trent (1545–1563)-
“If any one saith, that the sacraments of the New Law are not necessary unto salvation, but superfluous; and that, without them, or without the desire thereof, men obtain of God, through faith alone, the grace of justification; -though all (the sacraments) are not necessary for every individual; let him be anathema.”

Merit



∞ Man cannot merit the initial grace of the Holy Spirit. It is a free, undeserving gift of God. However, by the grace of the Sacrament of Baptism, we can merit for ourselves and others additional graces of sanctification through Christian charity and good works.

Merit (Cont)



Thus **good works** done in faith, hope and love for God, **after** Baptism, **can merit** further increases in grace, **justification**, and sanctification.

How is it possible to merit grace for other Christians?

Communion of the Saints



✧ In the communion of saints, a perennial link of charity exists between the faithful who have already reached their heavenly home, those who are expiating (doing penance) for their sins in purgatory, and those who are still pilgrims on earth. Between them there is, too, an abundant exchange of all good things.

Communion of the Saints

(Cont)



In this wonderful exchange, the holiness of one profits others. Thus recourse to the communion of saints lets the contrite sinner be more promptly and efficaciously purified of the punishments for sin. (we can intercede for them, they can intercede for us)

Indulgences



✧ In the teaching of the Roman Catholic Church, an **indulgence** is a way to reduce the amount of suffering one has to undergo for sins

Indulgences (Cont)



✧ The recipient of an indulgence must perform an action to receive it. This is most often the saying (once, or many times) of a specified prayer, but may also include the visiting of a particular place, or the performance of specific good works.

Indulgences (Cont)



✧ In the time of Martin Luther, indulgences could be purchased. An abuse that the church never officially sanctioned, but was widespread nonetheless.

Loss of Salvation



✧ The Council of Trent tells us, "If any one saith, that he will for certain, of an absolute and infallible certainty, have that great gift of perseverance unto the end, -unless he have learned this by special revelation; let him be anathema (Council of Trent, Sixth Session, Cannon 16)".

Loss of Salvation (Cont)



☞ Catholics emphasize that salvation and justification are not a one-time event, but a lifetime process that we must work out with participation in grace. (*Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling-Phil. 2:12*)

Loss of Salvation (Cont)



Because Catholic belief demands that justification is a process and not a one-time event, there can be no infallible assurance of salvation.

Summary



- ✧ Justification is a term that means the cleansing of sin in a person, and the communication by grace of through Baptism.
- ✧ Justification includes the forgiveness of original and personal sin, restoration of the interior man and sanctification of the soul through grace. Thus justification and sanctification occur together and are not exclusive of each other.

Summary (Cont)



- ✧ Grace is a free gift of God that infuses divine life into the soul as well as the theological virtues of faith, hope and charity.
- ✧ Sanctifying grace of the soul must normatively be received through the sacrament of Baptism. Through baptism, God adopts us as his sons and daughters. This is why Catholics baptize infants.

Summary (Cont)



- ✧ Jesus Christ alone can merit our initial justification and sanctification through his Passion and Resurrection.
- ✧ Once grace is infused in the soul, faith, hope and charity can merit the increase of justification and sanctification.
- ✧ Faith without good works is dead faith (James 2:17).

Summary (Cont)



- ✧ The seven Sacraments of the Church increase grace and thus justification in the believer.
- ✧ Prayer for those of the Body of Christ and ourselves can merit increasing grace for others and ourselves.
- ✧ Christian suffering has a redemptive role by allowing us to cooperate with Christ's Passion and suffering.

Summary (Cont)



- ✧ Rejecting God's love and grace through mortal sin results in lost justification.
- ✧ Venial sin weakens charity, but does not cut us off from Christ because venial sin (although offensive to God) is not a rejection of the heavenly Father.
- ✧ No person can have an assurance of their salvation unless they receive an extraordinary revelation from God.