

## Doctrines of the Reformation Sola Gratia - By Grace Alone

### Ephesians 2:1-10

"God bids us do what we cannot, that we may know what we ought to seek from him." - Augustine

"Truly, then, we are saved by grace alone, without works or other merit." - Martin Luther

If the gospel is grace alone, then every conversion is a miracle." - Tim Keller

**Definition** Grace alone means that God loves, forgives, and saves us not because of who we are or what we do, but because of the work of Christ. We are not saved by obeying a list of do's and don'ts, but by grace through faith in Christ. Our salvation is in God's hands. God's Word says that we are saved by **grace** through faith in Christ Jesus and not by our own efforts or works (**Ephesians 2:8-9**). **Grace Alone. Faith Alone. Grace alone** means that God loves, forgives, and saves us not because of who we are or what we do, but because of the work of Christ.

### Ephesians 2:1-10

#### I. Who we are without Christ

1-4

##### A. What the world thinks

1. Innocent from birth (tabula rasa)
2. Shaped totally by environment Environmental and inherited characteristics
3. Inherently good -just need education, law etc.

##### B. What the Bible teaches

1. We are born with sinful natures **Psalm 51:5**
2. We are controlled by our sinful nature. **1 John 2:16**
3. We are dead to God **John 8:34**
4. Under the wrath of God

##### C. Other images given in the Bible

Lost, snake-bitten, prostitutes, hopeless, alienated from God

#### II. Who we are in Christ

5-7, 10

##### A. Loved by God

##### B. Raised from the Dead

##### C. Made alive in Christ

##### D. One with Christ

New Reformation document -view at [ReformingCatholicConfession.com](http://ReformingCatholicConfession.com)

#### 1. Like Vine and Branches

John 15

He is all we are a part

#### 2. Like Head and body

**Romans 12, 1 Corinthians 12, Colossians 1, Ephesians 1,**

#### 3. Like Champion an soldiers

**1 Samuel 17**

#### 4. Like bridegroom and bride

**Ephesians 5**

We have nothing but shame, weaknesses, poverty

He gives us His Name, power, wealth

**Colossians 2:3 In him lie hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.**

#### E. Created for Good works

### III. What is the difference He makes

Colossians 1:13-22

#### A. Without Christ

Trapped in the domain of darkness

Alienated from God Hostile in mind

Engaged in evil deeds

#### B. In Him

In the Kingdom of light - Christ's presence

Redeemed and forgiven Reconciled to God

Holy Blameless Without reproach

### IV. How is this possible?

8-9

#### A. Not by our choices or works

*Titus 3:5 he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit,*

#### B. Through faith in Christ

Even that is a gift

When the people asked what they could do Jesus answered:

*John 6:29 Jesus answered, "The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent."*

#### C. It is by GRACE ALONE

*John Newton - slaver trader wrote Amazing Grace*

What should we do?

Ask - Lazarus - he was dead till Christ call him to life

Only listen and obey

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