

Semper Reformanda: The Biblical Heart of the Reformation
Week 4: *Sola Fide*

1. Biographical note: *Sola Fide* in the life of Martin Luther

2. *Sola fide* – The material principle of the Reformation

A. Definition and summary

B. Three elements of saving faith

1. *noticia* – knowledge
2. *assentia* - acknowledgement
3. *fiducia* - trust

C. Recurring tensions involving faith and works (Ephesians 2:8-10)

1. The *necessity* of faith vs. the *sufficiency* faith (Romans 4:1-5:2)
2. Works as *evidence* of justification vs. works as *basis* of justification (James 2:14-26)
3. *Infused* and *intrinsic* righteousness vs. *imputed* and *alien* righteousness (2 Corinthians 5:19-21; Galatians 2:15-3:29)
4. The *forensic* (legal) character of justification (Romans 8:33-34; Zechariah 3:1-5)

3. *Sola fide* is not a new concept, but has been demonstrated throughout history

- A. Clement of Rome, AD 95
- B. *Epistle to Diognetus*, 9:2-5, c.130-200 AD
- C. Irenaeus, d. 202
- D. Basil the Great, d.379
- E. John Chrysostom, d.407
- F. Jerome, d.420
- G. Augustine, d.430
- H. Bernard of Clairvoux, d.1153

4. **Christological focus:** Jesus' teaching on justification by faith alone (Luke 18:9-14)

5. The importance of *sola fide* today

- A. An issue of biblical orthodoxy (Acts 15:1-11)
- B. An issue of assurance (1 John 5:1-15)
- C. An issue of eternity (Acts 13:38-39; Galatians 1:6-9)