



# Reformed Theology vs Calvinism: What's The Difference?



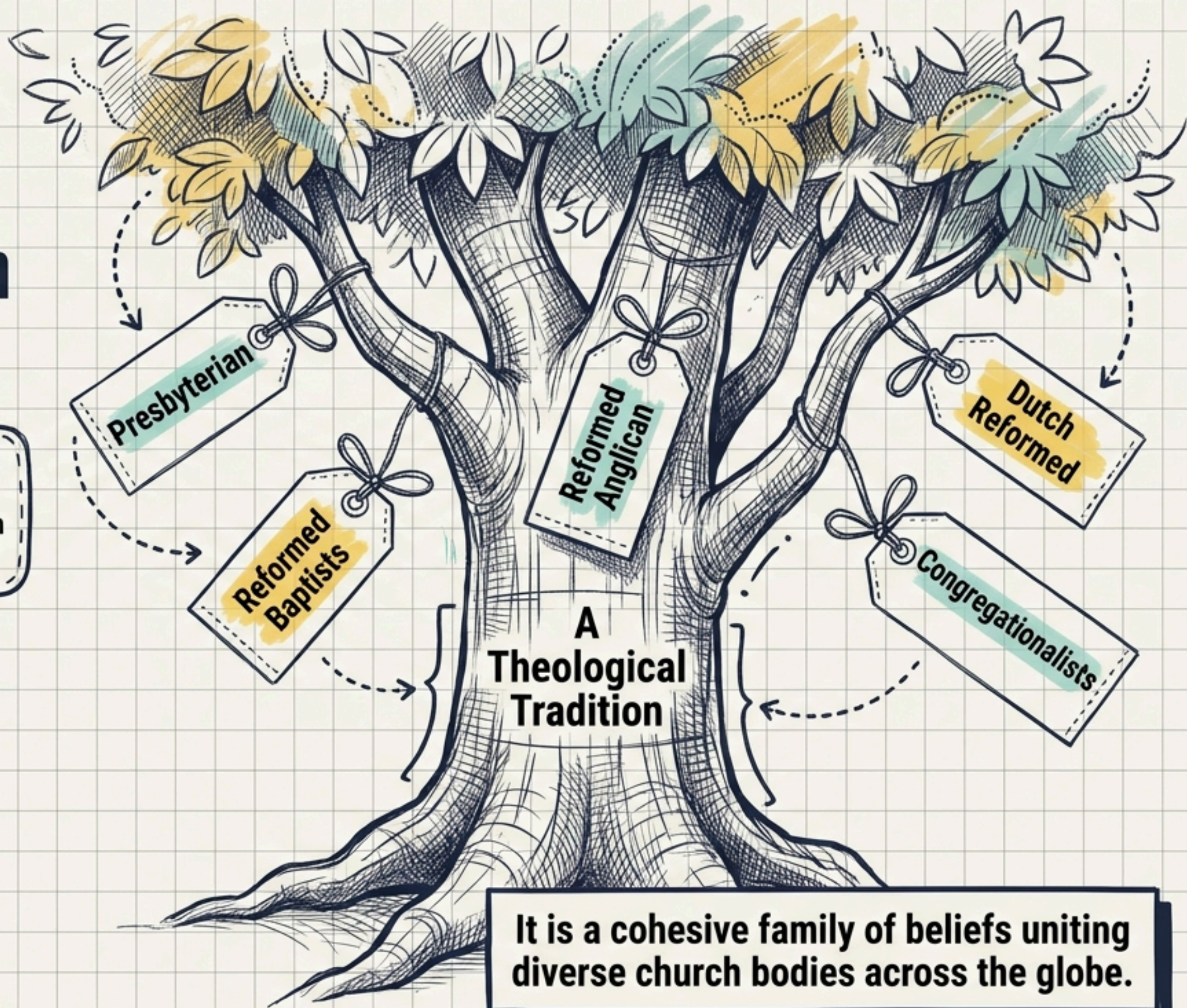
A visual guide to the history, foundations, and framework of a God-centered worldview.



# Reformed Theology is a Tradition, Not a Denomination

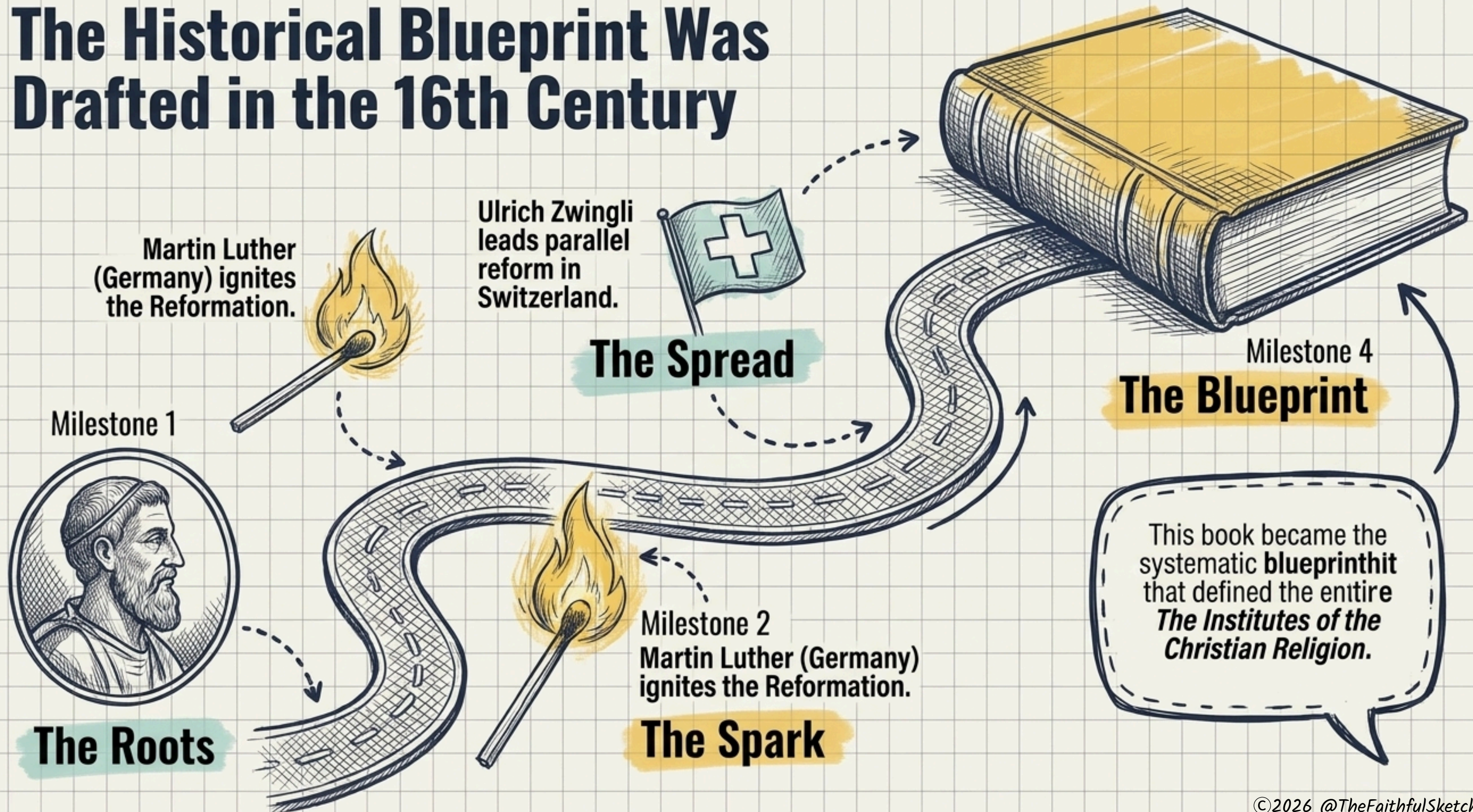


Not a single denomination  
(unlike the Roman Catholic Church)



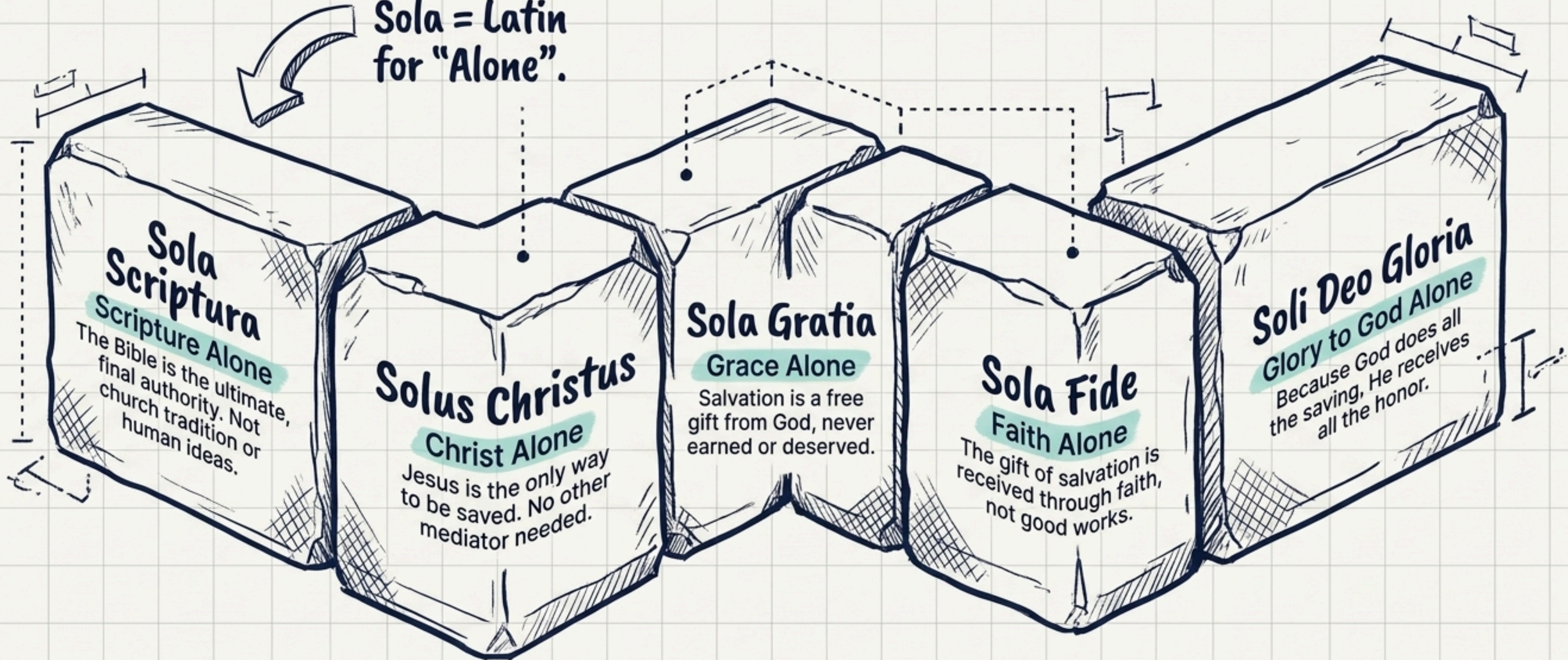
It is a cohesive family of beliefs uniting diverse church bodies across the globe.

# The Historical Blueprint Was Drafted in the 16th Century



# The Five Solas Form the Non-Negotiable Foundation

Sola = Latin for "Alone".



# God's Sovereignty and Providence is the Central Pillar

## Sovereignty

God is the supreme ruler over all things. He creates, sustains, and governs everything—from the largest galaxy to the smallest detail of our lives.



## Providence

He is actively involved, working all things according to a good and perfect plan.



## The Comfort Factor

Is this a cold doctrine? No. In a chaotic world, it is a profound comfort to know nothing is outside of God's loving control.

Sola  
Scriptura

Solus  
Christus

Sola  
Gratia

Sola  
Fide

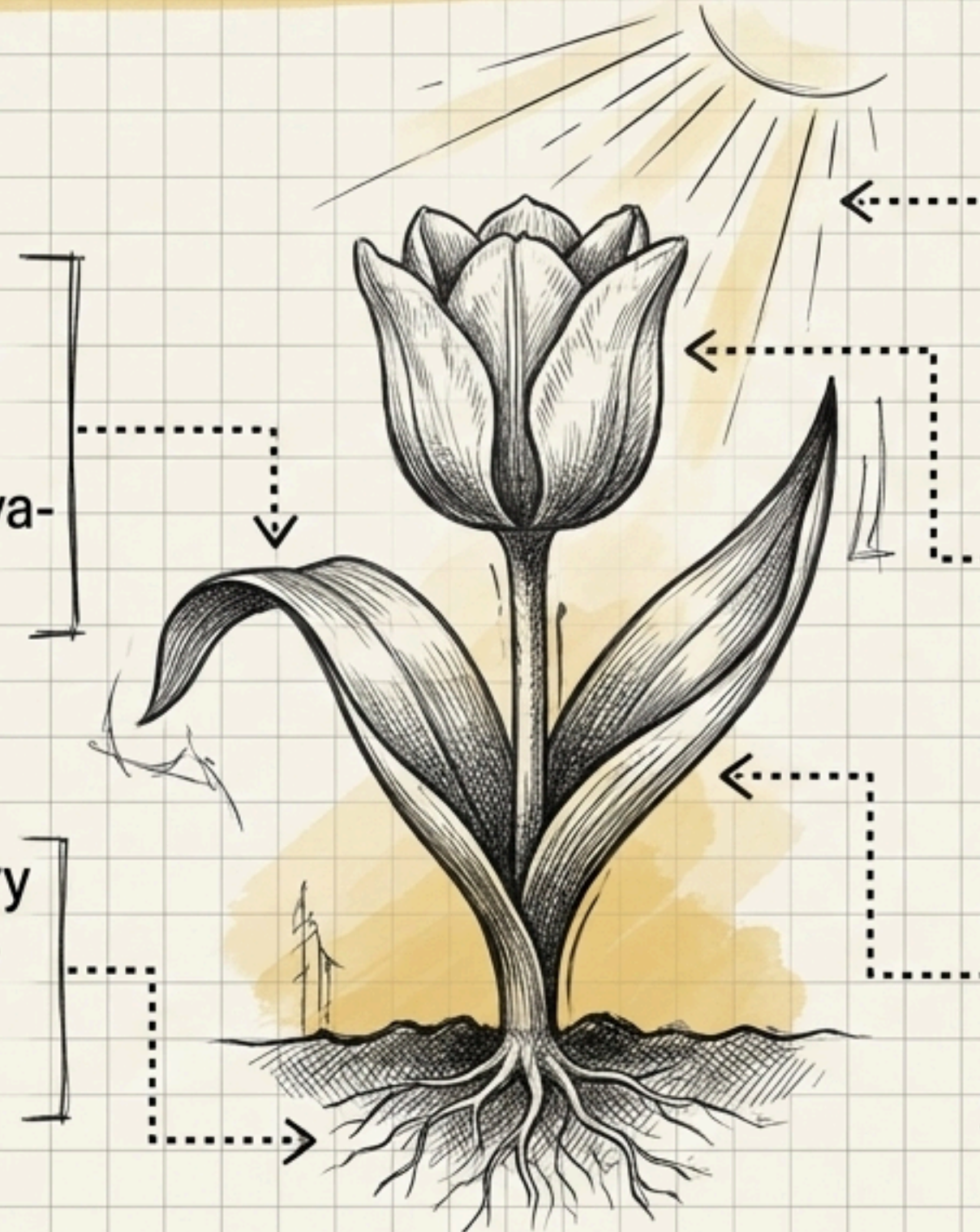
Soli Deo  
Gloria

# TULIP Defends God's Absolute Sovereignty in Salvation

Answers the core question: Who saves us? Us or God?

**Limited Atonement:** Better named "Particular Redemption." Jesus's death was definite and effective; it actually secured salvation, not just made it possible.

**Total Depravity:** Sin affects every part of us, including the will. We are spiritually dead and cannot choose God on our own.

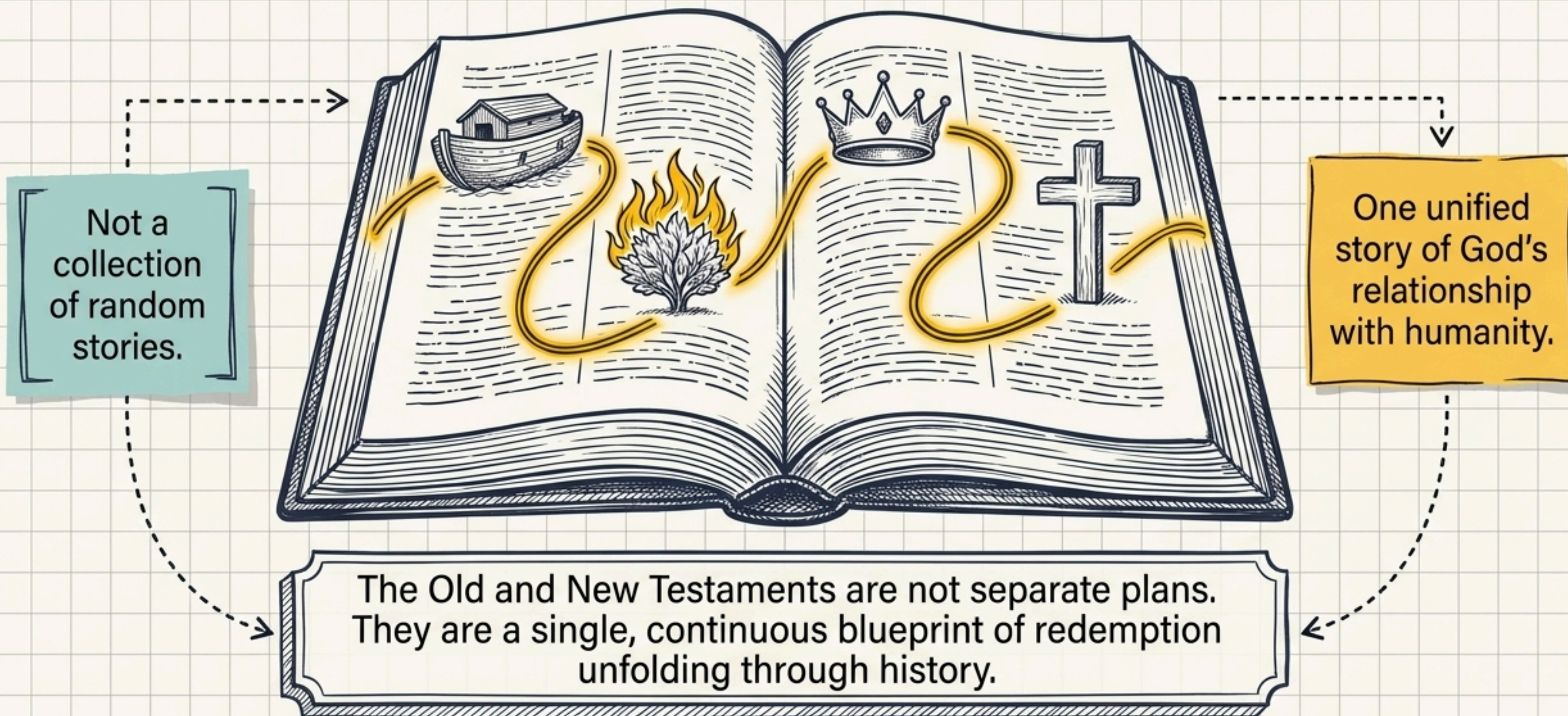


**Perseverance of the Saints:** God keeps those He saves. You cannot lose salvation because God is holding you.

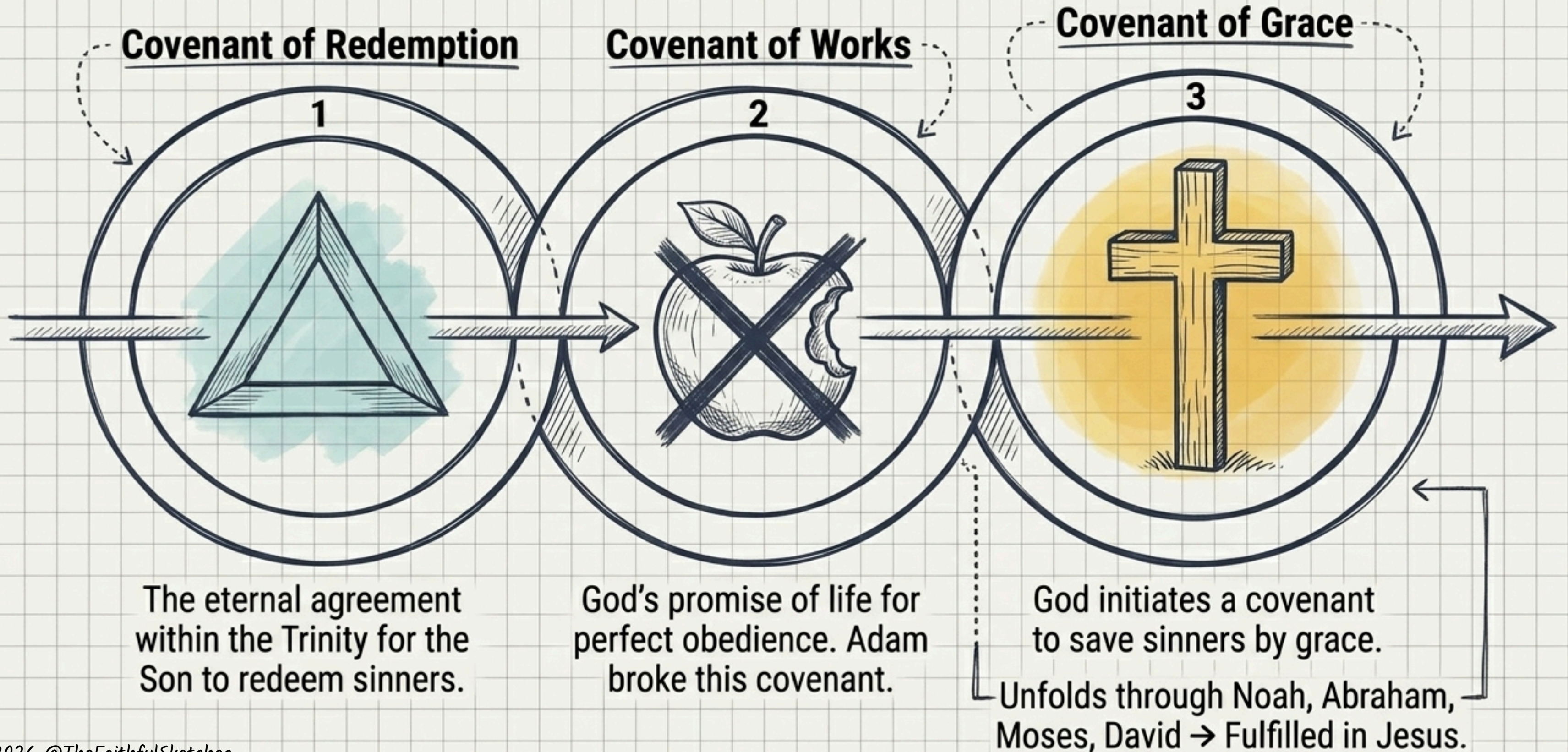
**Irresistible Grace:** When God calls His chosen people, He effectively draws them. His grace never fails.

**Unconditional Election:** Because we cannot choose Him, God must choose us—based solely on His gracious love, not our merit.

# Covenant Theology is the Framework of the Bible

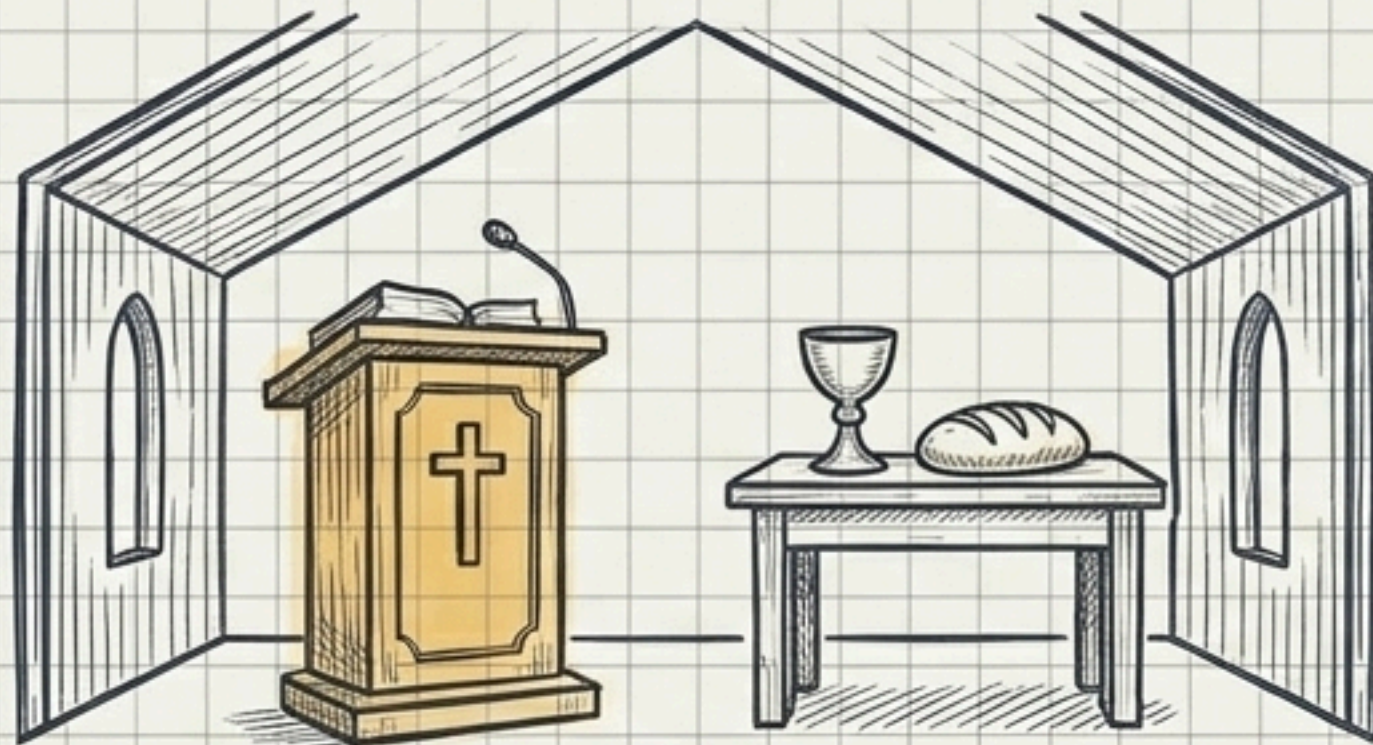


# The Three Overarching Covenants of Scripture



# The Lived-In House: Church, Sacraments, and Daily Life

## The Church



The true church requires faithful preaching of the word and right administration of sacraments.

### On Sacraments

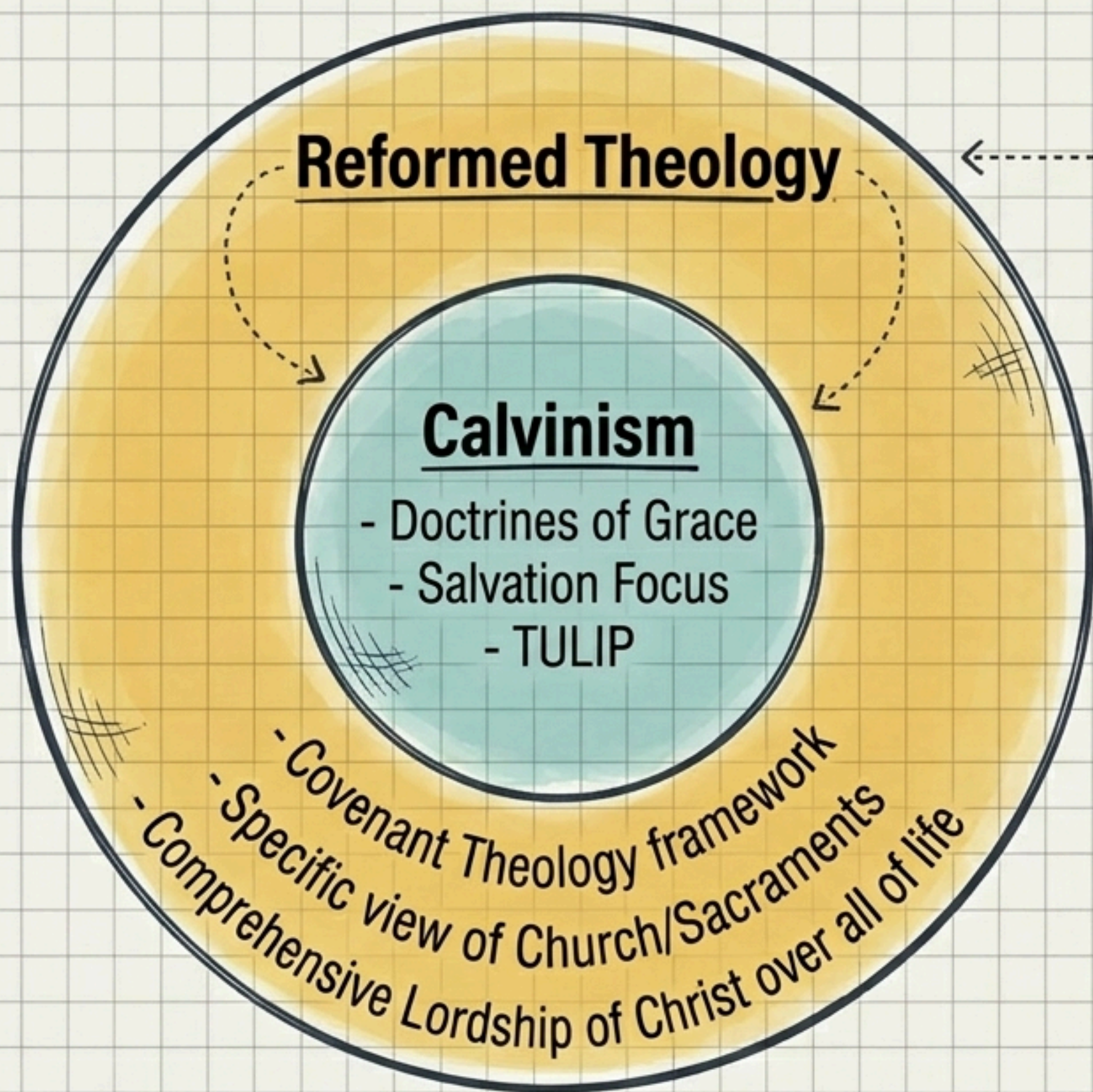
- Not magic rituals, but visible signs/seals of grace.
- Baptism = inclusion in the community.
- Communion = a spiritual meal feeding on Christ.

## The Home & Work



Obedience is a grateful response, not a way to earn salvation. All of life—work, family, art—is lived as an act of worship for God's glory.

# Diagnostic Matrix: Calvinism vs. Reformed Theology



**All Reformed theology is Calvinistic. But not all Calvinists are fully Reformed.**

**Explanation:** Calvinism focuses strictly on the mechanics of salvation. Reformed theology embraces those mechanics but expands them into a comprehensive worldview for reading the entire Bible and living out faith.

# Tackling the Critics: Free Will and Human Action

## The Objection

Doesn't this make God a tyrant and us mere robots?

If God is in control of everything, why pray or evangelize?

## The Reformed View

No. God's sovereignty works *through* our will, not by crushing it. We make real choices, but God orchestrates our free actions to fulfill His perfect plan.

God uses *means*. Our prayers and the preaching of the gospel are the exact tools God has chosen to use to call His people.

# Tackling the Critics: Evil, Morality, and Emotion

## The Objection

Doesn't this make God the author of evil?

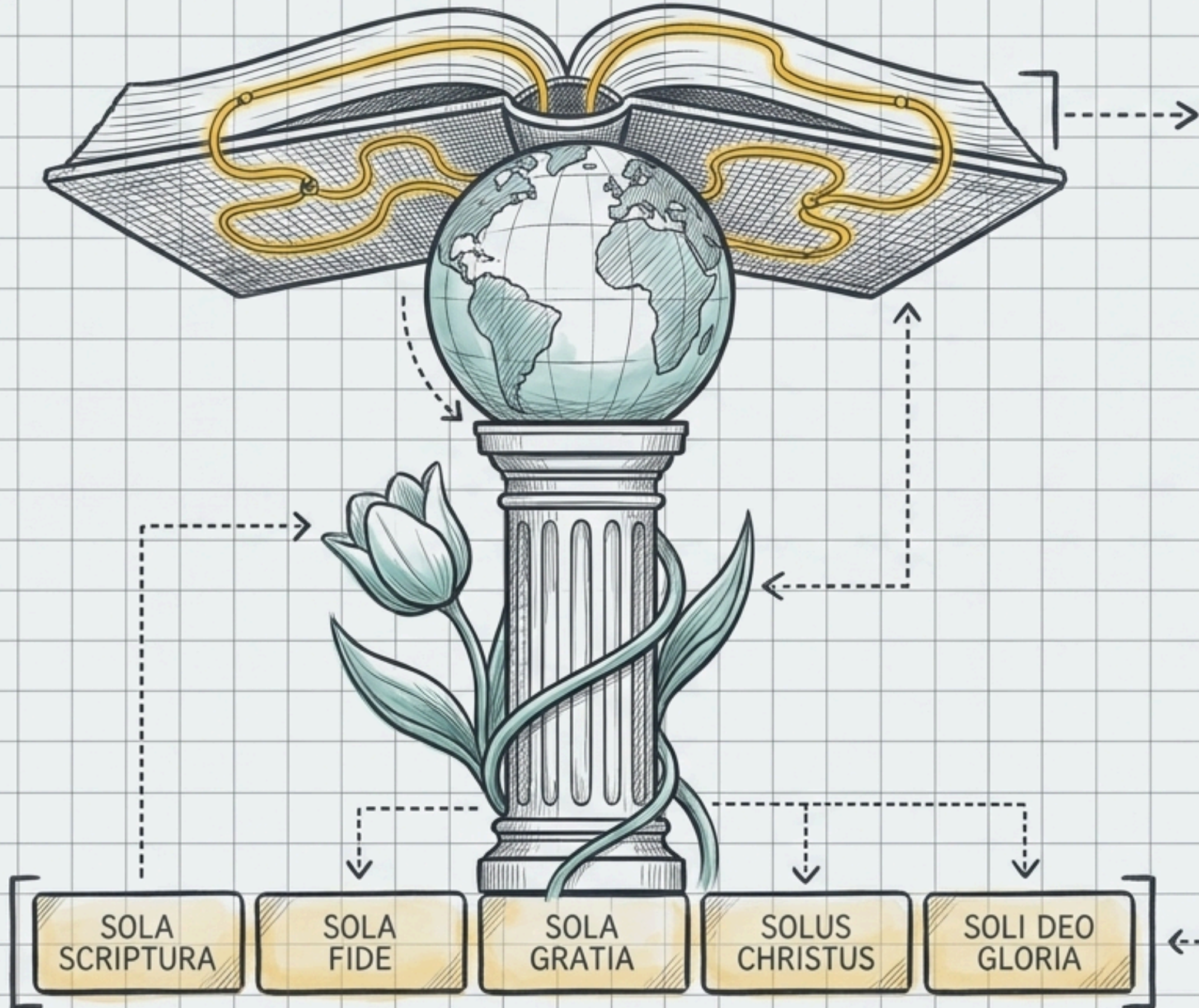
Isn't this just a license to sin? If I'm chosen, behavior doesn't matter.

## The Reformed View

God is sovereign over evil, but never its author. He allows it in His wisdom to redeem it for a greater good (seen most powerfully at the Cross).

It is a deep comfort. Your security rests on God's unwavering commitment, not your own weak faith, bringing lasting joy.

# [The Complete Blueprint: A Glorious Vision of God]



Reformed theology is a **comprehensive**, Bible-saturated worldview. It begins and ends with a **big, sovereign God** who controls all things, saves sinners by grace alone, and invites us into His magnificent story of redemption.

We've explored the foundation, the pillar, and the framework. What do you think of this God-centered blueprint?