

## The Ancient Faith

Ancient, Presbyterian, Reformed

☰ Menu

## A Response to Scott Hahn's Rome Sweet Home

👤 Anthony W. Brooks   📁 Calvinism, Church, Church History, Protestant, Resources, Roman Catholicism, Sacraments, Scripture   🕒 November 11, 2018  
 November 12, 2018   ⌚ 32 Minutes  
 Dear grandpa and grandma,

I received your gift and the book you sent me. I am familiar with Scott Hahn and I hope you will not mind me sharing my thoughts about his book.[1] ([https://christcrucifiedforthenations.wordpress.com/2018/09/18/a-responce-to-scott-hahns-rome-sweet-home/#\\_ftn1](https://christcrucifiedforthenations.wordpress.com/2018/09/18/a-responce-to-scott-hahns-rome-sweet-home/#_ftn1)) First I want to tell you that you will never understand what I believe if you see it through the lens of Scott Hahn. I am not sure if you have read the book or not, but the misrepresentations, the straw man arguments, the half-truths, and the double standards in his writings are far too many. For now I simply want to clarify the points where my faith has been misrepresented in Scott Hahn's book so that you can understand more clearly what I believe.

For Scott Hahn it seems that prior to his conversion, being a protestant for him was all about being, as he says, "anti-Catholic;" but I do not read much about solid convictions concerning the heart of what shaped the Protestant Reformation. He knew what he was against, but not what he was for. One is not saved by being "anti-Catholic" but by believing that Christ is the only savior who died on a cross not just to make our salvation possible, but to actually save completely and to the uttermost! But as for the term, "anti-Catholic," I am not sure what it means anymore, because it seems to me that almost anyone who disagrees with the Roman Catholic Church these days is labeled "anti-Catholic" and the term is thrown around to make us look as if we hate all Roman Catholics. So far I have never heard of those who disagree with the Jewish religion called "anti-Semitic," but the truth is that by standing for the gospel we stand against not only the Roman Catholic Church, but against the whole world. When we say that Jesus Christ is the only savior, every other religion looks at us as being intolerant, bigoted, narrow minded, and for this reason even the early Christians were called atheists for proclaiming Christ as the only savior to the world!

What I find strange is that Scott Hahn's conversion seems to turn around the issue of contraception. Although he is right when he says that all the reformers, like Martin Luther, John Calvin, Zwingli, Knox and all the rest opposed contraception, he then goes on to say, "I grew disturbed. The Roman Catholic Church stood alone as the only "denomination" in all the world with the courage and integrity to teach this most unpopular truth." [2] ([https://christcrucifiedforthenations.wordpress.com/2018/09/18/a-responce-to-scott-hahns-rome-sweet-home/#\\_ftn2](https://christcrucifiedforthenations.wordpress.com/2018/09/18/a-responce-to-scott-hahns-rome-sweet-home/#_ftn2)) First, you run into problems when you see the church only as "denominations," but I would like to know if Scott Hahn has ever looked for Protestants who oppose birth control. Has he ever conducted a few research to see how many Roman Catholics not only think that birth control is okay, but who actually use birth control? Go look at the statistics and you will see that although the pope says one thing, it is only a public image because a large amount of Roman Catholics out there are using birth control. On the other hand, I have Protestant friends who oppose birth control more than Roman Catholics do. Some go as far as opposing what is often called "natural family planning" because it too is a form of birth control which is unnatural and mechanical. You can go online and find many articles written by Protestants who oppose all form of pills and injections, and others who oppose all forms of birth control. 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 7:4-5 speaks of times of abstinence for prayer, not for the avoidance of bearing children. But I wish that discussions about birth control went beyond this or that method and instead focused on the very issues of life and death. As for me, I believe that all pills and injections are the pharmaceuticals of Satan! Research has shown that all forms of birth control pills are abortifacient. The IUD is the new instrument of infanticide. But I ask you to research how many Bible believing Evangelicals use these things compared to Roman Catholics. I'm not talking about the non-Bible believing liberals who have turned their backs on the Reformation. Doctors have often encouraged my wife's uncle to start using birth control but he always refused. Why? Because he reads a Bible that tells him that children are a blessing from God and not a curse.

In the book you sent me it also becomes very clear that Scott and Kimberly Hahn do not care about accurately representing what Martin Luther believed concerning justification by faith alone. As for Scott Hahn, he has no excuse if he claims to have been a serious student of Luther. As for Kimberly, I wonder why she does not provide references to where Luther said the things he supposedly said, and why she also does not tell the whole story. She says that Luther "declared that a person is not justified by faith working in love, but rather he is justified by faith alone." [3] ([https://christcrucifiedforthenations.wordpress.com/2018/09/18/a-responce-to-scott-hahns-rome-sweet-home/#\\_ftn3](https://christcrucifiedforthenations.wordpress.com/2018/09/18/a-responce-to-scott-hahns-rome-sweet-home/#_ftn3)) I would like to know what exactly Kimberly is talking about, but no reference is provided. I also wonder why she does not tell the whole story concerning Luther calling James "an epistle of straw." First, it must be understood that the common misconception that Luther did not believe that James was canonical is not true. For the Old Testament Martin Luther had a separate Apocrypha section in his German translation of the Bible. He had no such section for the New Testament. Luther made distinctions between the more important parts of the Bible which clearly communicate the gospel, and the less important sections concerning less important matters, which is why Luther called James an "epistle of straw" in his early preface for the New Testament. But I wonder why Kimberly does not provide the context of Luther's comment. In context his comment on James reads as follows:

In a word St. John's Gospel and his first epistle, St. Paul's epistles, especially Romans, Galatians, and Ephesians, and St. Peter's first epistle are the books that show you Christ and teach you all that is necessary and salvatory for you to know, even if you were never to see or hear any other book or doctrine. Therefore St. James epistle is really an epistle of straw, compared to these others, for it has nothing of the nature of the gospel about it. But more of this in the other prefaces. [4] ([https://christcrucifiedforthenations.wordpress.com/2018/09/18/a-responce-to-scott-hahns-rome-sweet-home/#\\_ftn4](https://christcrucifiedforthenations.wordpress.com/2018/09/18/a-responce-to-scott-hahns-rome-sweet-home/#_ftn4))

As you can see, the context really changes the meaning of that quotation, since Luther is comparing James to the other books of the Bible. Does this mean he thinks James is not a good book? Not at all, because in his preface to the epistle of James he says, "I praise it and consider it a good book, because it sets up no doctrines of men but vigorously promulgates the law of God." He says that although he cannot include James among the chief books, he also says, "I would not thereby prevent anyone from including or extolling him as he pleases, for there are otherwise many good sayings in him." [5] ([https://christcrucifiedforthenations.wordpress.com/2018/09/18/a-responce-to-scott-hahns-rome-sweet-home/#\\_ftn5](https://christcrucifiedforthenations.wordpress.com/2018/09/18/a-responce-to-scott-hahns-rome-sweet-home/#_ftn5)) What Kimberly also fails to mention is that Martin Luther later removed his comment on James being "an epistle of straw" from his preface to the New Testament in all his later editions of his

German translation. The comment only appears in his original 1522 edition. He removed the paragraphs that made value judgments among the books of the Bible in all his later editions. But I wonder why Roman Catholic apologists ignore the fact that the Roman Catholic Erasmus and Cardinal Cajetan questioned the authenticity of James. Kimberly also seems to be saying that Martin Luther did not believe that faith enables us to do the good works that God has planned for us to do.[6] ([https://christcrucifiedforthenations.wordpress.com/2018/09/18/a-responce-to-scott-hahns-rome-sweet-home/#\\_ftn6](https://christcrucifiedforthenations.wordpress.com/2018/09/18/a-responce-to-scott-hahns-rome-sweet-home/#_ftn6)) But concerning what Martin Luther believed concerning the relationship between faith and works, here is Martin Luther in his own words:

Faith is not what some people think it is. Their human dream is a delusion. Because they observe that faith is not followed by good works or a better life, they fall into error, even though they speak and hear much about faith. "Faith is not enough," they say, "You must do good works, you must be pious to be saved." They think that, when you hear the gospel, you start working, creating by your own strength a thankful heart which says, "I believe." That is what they think true faith is. But, because this is a human idea, a dream, the heart never learns anything from it, so it does nothing and reform doesn't come from this 'faith,' either. Instead, faith is God's work in us, that changes us and gives new birth from God. (John 1:13 (<http://www.esvbible.org/search/John%201.13/>)). It kills the Old Adam and makes us completely different people. It changes our hearts, our spirits, our thoughts and all our powers. It brings the Holy Spirit with it. Yes, it is a living, creative, active and powerful thing, this faith. Faith cannot help doing good works constantly. It doesn't stop to ask if good works ought to be done, but before anyone asks, it already has done them and continues to do them without ceasing. Anyone who does not do good works in this manner is an unbeliever. He stumbles around and looks for faith and good works, even though he does not know what faith or good works are. Yet he gossips and chatters about faith and good works with many words. Faith is a living, bold trust in God's grace, so certain of God's favor that it would risk death a thousand times trusting in it. Such confidence and knowledge of God's grace makes you happy, joyful and bold in your relationship to God and all creatures. The Holy Spirit makes this happen through faith. Because of it, you freely, willingly and joyfully do good to everyone, serve everyone, suffer all kinds of things, love and praise the God who has shown you such grace. Thus, it is just as impossible to separate faith and works as it is to separate heat and light from fire! Therefore, watch out for your own false ideas and guard against good-for-nothing gossips, who think they're smart enough to define faith and works, but really are the greatest of fools. Ask God to work faith in you, or you will remain forever without faith, no matter what you wish, say or can do.[7] ([https://christcrucifiedforthenations.wordpress.com/2018/09/18/a-responce-to-scott-hahns-rome-sweet-home/#\\_ftn7](https://christcrucifiedforthenations.wordpress.com/2018/09/18/a-responce-to-scott-hahns-rome-sweet-home/#_ftn7))

In *The Disputation Concerning Justification*, Martin Luther answers the following spurious argument: "*Faith without works justifies, Faith without works is dead. Therefore dead faith justifies.*" Martin Luther answers as follows:

The argument is sophistical and the refutation is resolved grammatically. In the major premise, 'faith' ought to be placed with the word 'justifies' and the portion of the sentence 'without works justifies' is placed in a predicate and periphrase and must refer to the word 'justifies,' not to faith. In the minor premise, 'without works' is truly in the subject periphrase and refers to faith. We say that justification is effective without works, not that faith is without works. For that faith which lacks fruit is not an efficacious but feigned faith. 'Without works' is ambiguous, then. For that reason this argument settles nothing. It is one thing that faith justifies without works; it is another thing that faith exists without works." [8] ([https://christcrucifiedforthenations.wordpress.com/2018/09/18/a-responce-to-scott-hahns-rome-sweet-home/#\\_ftn8](https://christcrucifiedforthenations.wordpress.com/2018/09/18/a-responce-to-scott-hahns-rome-sweet-home/#_ftn8))

Martin Luther also wrote a treatise on good works, but instead many want to portray him as an antinomian.

For me it is very painful to see Scott and Kimberly Hahn misrepresent the reformers, but what is far more painful is when Scott Hahn misrepresents the very words of Christ in the Scriptures! Scott Hahn says,

But after lots of prayer and study, I realized that Jesus could not have been speaking figuratively when he taught us to eat his flesh and drink his blood. The Jews in his audience would not have been outraged and scandalized by a mere symbol. Besides, if they had misunderstood Jesus to be speaking literally – when he meant his words to be taken figuratively – he could have easily clarified his point. In fact, since many of his disciples stopped following Jesus because of this teaching (v.60), he would have been morally obliged to explain the saying in purely symbolic terms. But he never did.[9] ([https://christcrucifiedforthenations.wordpress.com/2018/09/18/a-responce-to-scott-hahns-rome-sweet-home/#\\_ftn9](https://christcrucifiedforthenations.wordpress.com/2018/09/18/a-responce-to-scott-hahns-rome-sweet-home/#_ftn9))

I answer: but he did! In John 6 verses 60-63 it says,

Therefore many of his disciples, when they heard this said, "This is a difficult statement; who can listen to it?" But Jesus, conscious that his disciples grumbled at this, said to them, "Does this cause you to stumble? What then if you see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life."

Furthermore, who is Scott Hahn to judge what Jesus would have been morally obliged to do? Scott Hahn continues saying, "Nor did any Christian, for over one thousand years, ever deny the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist." [10] ([https://christcrucifiedforthenations.wordpress.com/2018/09/18/a-responce-to-scott-hahns-rome-sweet-home/#\\_ftn10](https://christcrucifiedforthenations.wordpress.com/2018/09/18/a-responce-to-scott-hahns-rome-sweet-home/#_ftn10)) I want you to know that Martin Luther and John Calvin also believed in the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist, but they did not believe in transubstantiation; and in the same way just because the church fathers believed in the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist does not mean they believe in transubstantiation. Scott Hahn is making giant leaps to jump to conclusions without doing a proper investigation. I have no idea how Kimberly Hahn's interpretation of John 6:63 later in the book [11] ([https://christcrucifiedforthenations.wordpress.com/2018/09/18/a-responce-to-scott-hahns-rome-sweet-home/#\\_ftn11](https://christcrucifiedforthenations.wordpress.com/2018/09/18/a-responce-to-scott-hahns-rome-sweet-home/#_ftn11)) makes any sense in light of the biblical context of the passage. If we can define physical existence as something that cannot be detected in time or space (as the doctrine of transubstantiation demands) then we can make out even Christ's incarnation to be a mere phantom. Jesus was not telling us to eat his flesh and drink his blood only once a week but every single day and every single moment of our lives through faith! Jerome shows that my interpretation is not new. He says,

We have heard the sacred Scriptures. I think the gospel is the body of Christ; Holy Writ, His teaching. When he says: 'He who does not eat my flesh and drink my blood,' although the words may be understood in their mystical sense, nevertheless, I say the word of Scripture is truly the body of Christ and His blood; it is divine doctrine. If at any time we approach the Sacrament the faithful understand what I mean and a tiny crumb should fall, we are appalled. Even so, if at any time we hear the word of God, through which the body and blood of Christ is being poured into our ears, and we yield carelessly to distraction, how responsible are we not for our failing? [12] ([https://christcrucifiedforthenations.wordpress.com/2018/09/18/a-responce-to-scott-hahns-rome-sweet-home/#\\_ftn12](https://christcrucifiedforthenations.wordpress.com/2018/09/18/a-responce-to-scott-hahns-rome-sweet-home/#_ftn12))

There is no doubt that Jerome treats the Lord's Supper with much reverence so as not to let even a tiny crumb to fall, but he defines the gospel and the Scriptures as the body of Christ and says that these are poured into our ears.

Perhaps the part that shows most clearly that Scott Hahn had no solid convictions prior to his conversion to Roman Catholicism is when he says that he broke into a cold sweat when a student asked him "where does the Bible teach that "Scripture is our sole authority?" [13] ([https://christcrucifiedforthenations.wordpress.com/2018/09/18/a-responce-to-scott-hahns-rome-sweet-home/#\\_ftn13](https://christcrucifiedforthenations.wordpress.com/2018/09/18/a-responce-to-scott-hahns-rome-sweet-home/#_ftn13)) First of all, if the student used these exact words it shows that he did not understand what *sola Scriptura* really means. *Sola Scriptura* does not mean that Scripture is our sole authority, but our

sole infallible authority. Pastors have authority to teach the Scriptures and the church has authority to teach the truth so long as they agree with Scripture. Every doctrine must be tested in light of Scripture. Scott Hahn seems to be ignoring what 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 3:16-17 is saying. It says, “All Scripture is God-breathed and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.” It says that the Scriptures make the man of God complete, not partially complete, but complete! The Scriptures contain the fullness of the truth which God has delivered to the church. What Scott Hahn also ignores is that for at least the first 500 years the church always understood the traditions it must follow to be nothing other than what is contained in Scripture. The problem is that in the later middle ages the word Tradition came to be known as something outside of Scripture. In the original Greek of the New Testament the word tradition can also mean teaching, and therefore 2<sup>nd</sup> Thessalonians 2:15 can also read as follows: “So then, brethren, stand firm and hold to the teachings which you were taught, whether by word of mouth or by letter from us.” Why should we be surprised that the apostle Paul wants the Thessalonians to remember his teachings? He was an apostle and had authority to teach by writing or by word of mouth. But if the Roman Catholic Church claims to have some Tradition passed on by word of mouth which is not contained in Scripture, then the Roman Catholic Church bears the burden of proof. But this is the same claim made by the Gnostics of old. Scott Hahn’s translation of 1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 15 is also inaccurate. Scott Hahn quotes it as saying that “the church is the pillar and foundation of truth”, but in reality it says that the church of the living God is “the pillar and support of the truth.” Protestants have never denied that the church is “the pillar and support of truth”, but the question is, what is the church and how does it support the truth? The answer is that the church has always proclaimed the light of the gospel in this dark world, and the church is God’s chosen people called out of the world to proclaim the truth for his glory.

Scott Hahn also confuses the keys of the kingdom of heaven in Matthew 16:19 with the key of David spoken of in Isaiah 22:22.[14] ([https://christcrucifiedforthenations.wordpress.com/2018/09/18/a-response-to-scott-hahns-rome-sweet-home/#\\_ftn14](https://christcrucifiedforthenations.wordpress.com/2018/09/18/a-response-to-scott-hahns-rome-sweet-home/#_ftn14)) Notice that one is plural and the other is singular. The keys of the kingdom of heaven spoken of in Matthew 16:19 represent the power of binding and loosing by the proclamation of the gospel. These keys are later given to all the apostles in Mathew 18:18 where Jesus says to all his disciples, “Whatever you bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven.” But who has the key of David? In the book of Revelation it says that Jesus has the key of David, as it says, “He who is holy, who is true, who has the key of David, who opens and no one will shut, and who shuts and no one opens says this: I know your deeds. Behold, I have put before you an open door which no one can shut, because you have a little power, and have kept my word, and have not denied my name” (Revelation 3:7-8). Jesus says this long after he has given the keys of the kingdom of heaven to Peter and the other apostles. There is only one key of David and Jesus has it!

Scott Hahn says that he saw covenant at the center of Scripture.[15] ([https://christcrucifiedforthenations.wordpress.com/2018/09/18/a-response-to-scott-hahns-rome-sweet-home/#\\_ftn15](https://christcrucifiedforthenations.wordpress.com/2018/09/18/a-response-to-scott-hahns-rome-sweet-home/#_ftn15)) I ask, what about Christ at the centre of Scripture? Scott Hahn says, “I’m absolutely convinced that the covenant is central to all of Scripture, just as the greatest Protestants like John Calvin and Jonathan Edwards have taught.”[16] ([https://christcrucifiedforthenations.wordpress.com/2018/09/18/a-response-to-scott-hahns-rome-sweet-home/#\\_ftn16](https://christcrucifiedforthenations.wordpress.com/2018/09/18/a-response-to-scott-hahns-rome-sweet-home/#_ftn16)) I answer: They taught Christ crucified and God’s sovereignty as the centre, without which there can be no covenant.

Scott Hahn also makes a claim that has been refuted so many times, yet Roman Catholics keep using the same argument no matter how many times it has been refuted. He says, “Ever since the Reformation, over twenty five thousand different Protestant denominations have come into existence, and experts say there are presently five new ones being formed every week.”[17] ([https://christcrucifiedforthenations.wordpress.com/2018/09/18/a-response-to-scott-hahns-rome-sweet-home/#\\_ftn17](https://christcrucifiedforthenations.wordpress.com/2018/09/18/a-response-to-scott-hahns-rome-sweet-home/#_ftn17)) Where is Scott Hahn getting his information from? No reference is provided. Many Roman Catholic apologists point to the World Christian Encyclopedia[18] ([https://christcrucifiedforthenations.wordpress.com/2018/09/18/a-response-to-scott-hahns-rome-sweet-home/#\\_ftn18](https://christcrucifiedforthenations.wordpress.com/2018/09/18/a-response-to-scott-hahns-rome-sweet-home/#_ftn18)) as their reference for such a claim, but go and read it for your-self and see how many Roman Catholic denominations there are.[19] ([https://christcrucifiedforthenations.wordpress.com/2018/09/18/a-response-to-scott-hahns-rome-sweet-home/#\\_ftn19](https://christcrucifiedforthenations.wordpress.com/2018/09/18/a-response-to-scott-hahns-rome-sweet-home/#_ftn19)) You’ll be surprised. Roman Catholic apologists jump to conclusions when they see such a big number and they assume that one is Roman Catholic, another is Eastern Orthodox, and the rest are Protestant. But I remind you that the word protestant came from a historical context where the heart of their doctrine was well defined. You cannot assume that just because one is not Roman Catholic or Eastern Orthodox it makes them protestant. You cannot be a protestant if you deny the non-negotiable tenets of the Reformation. Unfortunately, many today do this very thing, and the world refuses to see the difference between them and us. The vast majority of denominations out there deny the principle of *sola Scriptura*, which shows clearly that the denial of *sola Scriptura* is the blueprint for anarchy! If only Roman Catholic apologists would do their research before making claims that are refuted when you look at the very sources they cite! Scott Hahn asks, “what would it take to govern a worldwide church?”[20] ([https://christcrucifiedforthenations.wordpress.com/2018/09/18/a-response-to-scott-hahns-rome-sweet-home/#\\_ftn20](https://christcrucifiedforthenations.wordpress.com/2018/09/18/a-response-to-scott-hahns-rome-sweet-home/#_ftn20)) I answer: Christ!

Scott Hahn argues that one is born again by physical water baptism. If Scott Hahn’s argument that one is born again by physical water baptism were true, then it still stands true that the vast majority of Roman Catholics out there have never been born again, because in the original Greek of the New Testament the word to baptize literally means to dip, and the vast majority of Roman Catholics have not been baptized by immersion. But why is it so hard to see that to be “born of water and the Spirit”[21] ([https://christcrucifiedforthenations.wordpress.com/2018/09/18/a-response-to-scott-hahns-rome-sweet-home/#\\_ftn21](https://christcrucifiedforthenations.wordpress.com/2018/09/18/a-response-to-scott-hahns-rome-sweet-home/#_ftn21)) refers to the spiritual cleansing waters of the Holy Spirit, especially when compared to Ezekiel 36? For example it says,

Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put my Spirit within you and cause you to walk in my statutes, and you will be careful to observe my ordinances.” (Ezekiel 36:25-27)

As you can see, the new birth is a change of heart. Jesus said that “unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God” (John 3:3). But if one is born again by physical water baptism, how is it that the apostle Paul said “Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel...”? (1 Corinthians 1:17).

Kimberly Hahn says that baptism highlights justification by grace alone,[22] ([https://christcrucifiedforthenations.wordpress.com/2018/09/18/a-response-to-scott-hahns-rome-sweet-home/#\\_ftn22](https://christcrucifiedforthenations.wordpress.com/2018/09/18/a-response-to-scott-hahns-rome-sweet-home/#_ftn22)) but you cannot have justification by grace alone or salvation by grace alone without justification by faith alone, which Scott and Kimberly Hahn both deny and the council of Trent has anathematized![23] ([https://christcrucifiedforthenations.wordpress.com/2018/09/18/a-response-to-scott-hahns-rome-sweet-home/#\\_ftn23](https://christcrucifiedforthenations.wordpress.com/2018/09/18/a-response-to-scott-hahns-rome-sweet-home/#_ftn23)) The Roman Catholic Church has redefined grace in a way that includes works. For example, the Council of Trent says,

CANON XXXII.-If any one saith, that the good works of one that is justified are in such manner the gifts of God, as that they are not also the good merits of him that is justified; or, that the said justified, by the good works which he performs through the grace of God and the merit of Jesus Christ, whose living member he is, does not truly merit increase of grace, eternal life, and the attainment of that eternal life,-if so be, however, that he depart in grace,-and also an increase of glory; let him be anathema.[24] ([https://christcrucifiedforthenations.wordpress.com/2018/09/18/a-response-to-scott-hahns-rome-sweet-home/#\\_ftn24](https://christcrucifiedforthenations.wordpress.com/2018/09/18/a-response-to-scott-hahns-rome-sweet-home/#_ftn24))

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* also says,

Since the initiative belongs to God in the order of grace, no one can merit the initial grace of forgiveness and Justification, at the beginning of conversion. Moved by the Holy Spirit and by charity, we can then merit for ourselves and for others the graces needed for our sanctification, for the increases of grace and charity and for the attainment of eternal life. (2010)[25] ([https://christcrucifiedforthenations.wordpress.com/2018/09/18/a-response-to-scott-hahns-rome-sweet-home/#\\_ftn25](https://christcrucifiedforthenations.wordpress.com/2018/09/18/a-response-to-scott-hahns-rome-sweet-home/#_ftn25))

The Roman Catholic Church teaches that we can merit grace. It sees God's grace merely as God's help to get merit to earn further grace. This is in total opposition to the apostle Paul who says, "But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works, otherwise grace is no longer grace" (Romans 11:6). Grace cannot be mingled with works for salvation. When works are added, grace is lost. Grace must be the unmerited favor of God. Although grace produces good works, good works can never earn or merit grace! But as can be seen from the council of Trent and the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, the Roman Catholic Church has rejected the biblical definition of Grace.

Scott and Kimberly Hahn say much about the intercession of saints. I can find one example in the Bible where the intercession a saint is sought, and that is where Saul seeks Samuel's intercession through a medium at En-dor. What was Samuel's response? The Bible describes Samuel's response to Saul as follows:

Then Samuel said to Saul, "Why have you disturbed me by bringing me up?" And Saul answered, "I am greatly distressed; for the Philistines are waging war against me, and God has departed from me and no longer answers me, either through prophets or by dreams; therefore I have called you, that you may make known to me what I should do." Samuel said, "Why then do you ask me, since the Lord has departed from you and has become your adversary? The Lord has done accordingly as He spoke through me; for the Lord has torn the kingdom out of your hand and given it to your neighbor, to David. As you did not obey the Lord and did not execute His fierce wrath on Amalek, so the Lord has done this thing to you this day. Moreover the Lord will also give over Israel along with you into the hands of the Philistines, therefore tomorrow you and your sons will be with me. Indeed the Lord will give over the army of Israel into the hands of the Philistines!" (1 Samuel 28:15-19)

Samuel is obviously not happy that Saul sought his intercession. Where Scripture says, "Should they consult the dead on behalf of the living?" [26] ([https://christcrucifiedforthenations.wordpress.com/2018/09/18/a-response-to-scott-hahns-rome-sweet-home/#\\_ftn26](https://christcrucifiedforthenations.wordpress.com/2018/09/18/a-response-to-scott-hahns-rome-sweet-home/#_ftn26)) it is obviously speaking of those who are physically dead, not spiritually dead. But if Kimberly Hahn's interpretation [27] ([https://christcrucifiedforthenations.wordpress.com/2018/09/18/a-response-to-scott-hahns-rome-sweet-home/#\\_ftn27](https://christcrucifiedforthenations.wordpress.com/2018/09/18/a-response-to-scott-hahns-rome-sweet-home/#_ftn27)) were true, where then is the biblical support for prayers to the saints? Why is it that the only form of valid prayer found in Scripture is prayer directed to God?

Kimberly Hahn claims that the woman in Revelation 12 is Mary, but I ask, where does it say that's Mary? Interestingly, Kimberly Hahn has come up with an interpretation that plainly contradicts the interpretation of the early church. The early church understood that the "woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars" [28] ([https://christcrucifiedforthenations.wordpress.com/2018/09/18/a-response-to-scott-hahns-rome-sweet-home/#\\_ftn28](https://christcrucifiedforthenations.wordpress.com/2018/09/18/a-response-to-scott-hahns-rome-sweet-home/#_ftn28)) is the church. For example, Hippolytus says,

By the woman then clothed with the sun, he meant most manifestly the Church, endued with the Father's word, whose brightness is above the sun. And by the 'moon under her feet' he referred to her being adorned, like the moon, with heavenly glory. And the words, 'upon her head a crown of twelve stars,' refer to the twelve apostles by whom the Church was founded. And those, 'she, being with child, cries, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered,' mean that the Church will not cease to bear from her heart the Word that is persecuted by the unbelieving in the world. 'And she brought forth,' he says, 'a man-child, who is to rule all the nations;' by which is meant that the Church, always bringing forth Christ, the perfect man-child of God, who is declared to be God and man, becomes the instructor of all the nations. And the words, 'her child was caught up unto God and to His throne,' signify that he who is always born of her is a heavenly king, and not an earthly; even as David also declared of old when he said, 'The Lord said unto my Lord, Sit Thou at my right hand, until I make Thine enemies Thy footstool.' 'And the dragon,' he says, 'saw and persecuted the woman which brought forth the man-child. And to the woman were given two wings of the great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent.' That refers to the one thousand two hundred and threescore days (the half of the week) during which the tyrant is to reign and persecute the Church, which flees from city to city, and seeks concealment in the wilderness among the mountains, possessed of no other defence than the two wings of the great eagle, that is to say, the faith of Jesus Christ, who, in stretching forth His holy hands on the holy tree, unfolded two wings, the right and the left, and called to Him all who believed upon Him, and covered them as a hen her chickens. For by the mouth of Malachi also He speaks thus: 'And unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in His wings.' [29] ([https://christcrucifiedforthenations.wordpress.com/2018/09/18/a-response-to-scott-hahns-rome-sweet-home/#\\_ftn29](https://christcrucifiedforthenations.wordpress.com/2018/09/18/a-response-to-scott-hahns-rome-sweet-home/#_ftn29))

In his commentary on the book of Revelation Marius Victorinus says,

The woman clothed with the sun, and having the moon under her feet, and wearing a crown of twelve stars upon her head, and travailing in her pains, is the ancient Church of fathers, and prophets, and saints, and apostles, which had the groans and torments of its longing until it saw that Christ, the fruit of its people according to the flesh long promised to it, had taken flesh out of the selfsame people....[30] ([https://christcrucifiedforthenations.wordpress.com/2018/09/18/a-response-to-scott-hahns-rome-sweet-home/#\\_ftn30](https://christcrucifiedforthenations.wordpress.com/2018/09/18/a-response-to-scott-hahns-rome-sweet-home/#_ftn30))

The twelve stars can also be interpreted as being the twelve tribes of Israel. I wonder how the Roman Catholic Church can claim to be the 2000 year old church when it teaches things that are never mentioned in Scripture and are unknown to the church fathers.

In the conclusion of Scott and Kimberly Hahn's book they refer to Evangelical Christians as "separated brethren," and this has been the talk of the Roman Catholic Church ever since the second Vatican council. But this will never mean anything until the Roman Catholic Church is at least willing to retract the anathemas of the council of Trent where the very gospel itself has been anathematized! For example the council of Trent explicitly anathematizes those who believe in justification by faith alone with the following anathema:

CANON XXIV.-If any one saith, that the justice received is not preserved and also increased before God through good works; but that the said works are merely the fruits and signs of Justification obtained, but not a cause of the increase thereof; let him be anathema. [31] ([https://christcrucifiedforthenations.wordpress.com/2018/09/18/a-response-to-scott-hahns-rome-sweet-home/#\\_ftn31](https://christcrucifiedforthenations.wordpress.com/2018/09/18/a-response-to-scott-hahns-rome-sweet-home/#_ftn31))

Until the Roman Catholic Church is willing to retract such anathemas then their referring to us as "separated brethren" is mere wolf talk and double talk. I do not say this because I have only read the anathemas without the explanation prior to them. I have read the entirety of the 6<sup>th</sup> session of the council of Trent. The Roman Catholic Church speaks from both sides of its mouth when it anathematizes us and then confuses the gullible by calling us "separated brethren." As for me, I cannot endure such double talk any longer. Even Kimberly Hahn said that the Roman Catholic Church is "either true or diabolical." [32] ([https://christcrucifiedforthenations.wordpress.com/2018/09/18/a-response-to-scott-hahns-rome-sweet-home/#\\_ftn32](https://christcrucifiedforthenations.wordpress.com/2018/09/18/a-response-to-scott-hahns-rome-sweet-home/#_ftn32)) Until it is willing to retract the anathemas of the council of Trent I must say that it is diabolical because it has anathematized the gospel itself! Other religions have not gone that far.

There is more that can be said about Scott and Kimberly Hahn's book, but I will refrain because I think I have already mentioned the most important parts. For now I think I will only say that I expect better from someone with a PHD. I understand that the book is meant to be a personal testimony, but no references are given where it really matters, and the misrepresentations, half-truths and straw man arguments are inexcusable. I at least thank you for giving me the opportunity to clarify my faith in light of Scott Hahn's book, and hope that you will correct others who misunderstand us. But more importantly, I want you to know the gospel, and wish that one day you can have the same faith as I do. For now I will explain what our response is to those who use James to say that one is justified before God by faith and works.

James says, "What use is it, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but he has no works? Can that faith save him?" (James 2:14). James thus makes it clear that such a faith is not a true faith but a dead and counterfeit faith which cannot save. True faith is not barren and inert but moves us to action, as he says, "If a brother or sister is without clothing and in need of daily food, and one of you says to them, 'Go in peace, be warmed and be filled,' and yet you do not give them what is necessary for their body, what use is that?" (James 2:15-16). James thus demonstrates the difference between a true and a counterfeit faith, as he continues saying, "Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead, being by itself. But someone may say, 'You have faith and I have works; show me your faith without the works, and I will show you my faith by my works. You believe that God is one. You do well; the demons also believe, and shudder.'" (James 2:17-19). With these words James makes it clear that true saving faith is not merely a faith in the existence of God or that God is one, or that God is three in one, for even the demons believe these things. True saving faith is a faith that trusts in Christ as our perfect high priest and in his finished sacrifice for our salvation. This kind of faith the demons do not have, for how can they trust in the mercy of God when they hate him and his gospel? James goes on saying, "But are you willing to recognize, you foolish fellow, that faith without works is useless? Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up Isaac his son on the altar?" (James 2:20-21). We must remember that James is not talking about how one is justified before God but how one is demonstrated to be genuine. It is useful to understand how the word "justified" is used in different ways throughout Scripture. Most are familiar with the sense in which the apostle Paul uses the word in order to teach that one is declared righteous before God even though he has no righteousness of his own. The context and the teaching of the apostle Paul make this understanding of the word 'justify' necessary. Another use of the word 'justify' is when one who is truly righteous is declared to be so, or demonstrated to be so, or when something that is genuine or true is demonstrated to be so. In some contexts, the word justified can also be translated as, "vindicated." For this reason where James says, "Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up Isaac his son on the altar?" the context makes it clear that a perfectly reasonable translation is "Was not Abraham our father vindicated by works when he offered up Isaac his son on the altar?" In other words, Abraham was demonstrated to be a man of genuine faith by his works. James goes on to say, "You see that faith was working with his works, and as a result of the works, faith was perfected; and the Scripture was fulfilled which says, 'And Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness,' and he was called the friend of God." (James 2:23). Here we see clearly that James is in agreement with the apostle Paul that one is considered righteous by faith, for Abraham was declared righteous long before he offered Isaac on the altar. From this we can clearly see that Abraham's works were a result of his faith. James then says, "You see that a man is justified by works and not by faith alone. In the same way, was not Rahab the harlot also justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out by another way?" (James 2:24-25). Again, here James is not using the word "justified" to explain how one is justified before God, but how one is demonstrated to be genuine and true. Therefore a perfectly reasonable translation is, "You see that a man is vindicated by works and not by faith alone. In the same way, was not Rahab the harlot also vindicated by works when she received the messengers and sent them out by another way?" (James 2:24-25). Rahab's faith was thus demonstrated by her actions, for she truly believed that the God of Israel was powerful and able to destroy Jericho and she would rather trust in the God of Israel than the walls of Jericho. James then says, "For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead" (James 2:26). It is just as if James is saying, has your faith changed your life? because if your faith has not changed your life, then your faith is nothing more than a bunch of empty words! Christians long before the Protestant Reformation also interpreted James in the same way. For example, Bede says,

Although the apostle Paul preached that we are justified by faith without works, those who understand by this that it does not matter whether they live evil lives or do wicked and terrible things, as long as they believe in Christ, because salvation is through faith, have made a great mistake. James here expounds how Paul's words ought to be understood. This is why he uses the example of Abraham, whom Paul also used as an example of faith, to show that the patriarch also performed good works in the light of his faith. It is therefore wrong to interpret Paul in such a way as to suggest that it did not matter whether Abraham put his faith into practice or not. What Paul meant was that no one obtains the gift of justification on the basis of merits derived from works performed beforehand, because the gift of justification comes only from faith." [33] ([https://christcrucifiedforthenations.wordpress.com/2018/09/18/a-response-to-scott-hahns-rome-sweet-home/#\\_ftn33](https://christcrucifiedforthenations.wordpress.com/2018/09/18/a-response-to-scott-hahns-rome-sweet-home/#_ftn33))

The Christian church believed in justification by faith alone long before Martin Luther, John Calvin and the other reformers. For example, Ambrosiaster (commenting on 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 1:4) says, "God has decreed that a person who believes in Christ can be saved without works. By faith alone he receives the forgiveness of sins." [34] ([https://christcrucifiedforthenations.wordpress.com/2018/09/18/a-response-to-scott-hahns-rome-sweet-home/#\\_ftn34](https://christcrucifiedforthenations.wordpress.com/2018/09/18/a-response-to-scott-hahns-rome-sweet-home/#_ftn34)) John Chrysostom says, "But what is the 'law of faith?' It is, being saved by grace. Here he shows God's power, in that He has not only saved, but has even justified, and led them to boasting, and this too without needing works, but looking for faith only." [35] ([https://christcrucifiedforthenations.wordpress.com/2018/09/18/a-response-to-scott-hahns-rome-sweet-home/#\\_ftn35](https://christcrucifiedforthenations.wordpress.com/2018/09/18/a-response-to-scott-hahns-rome-sweet-home/#_ftn35)) When I look at the Christians of old I see that they believed all the non-negotiable tenets of the Christian faith, that they had the same faith I have; the same faith that survived the devouring lions of the Roman persecutions is the same faith that survived the burning fires of the Roman Catholic inquisitions.

I do not mind you sending me books, but I tell you that I will be more easily convinced by people like Augustine, John Chrysostom and Jerome than Scott Hahn. So far I have gone through all of Augustine's confessions, his treatise *On the Predestination of the Saints*, Athanasius' *On the Incarnation of the Word*, *The Martyrdom of Polycarp* and Polycarp's epistle as well as parts of other books here and there. I see that their catholic faith is very different from what the Roman Catholic Church teaches today. I wish that instead of reading Scott Hahn Roman Catholics would go back and read the church fathers in their own books and in their own words; or better yet, that they would read the God-breathed Scriptures. As for me I tell you plainly, Rome is not my home. The heavenly Jerusalem is my home. The pope is not my father, because I am a child of God. Christ is the head of the church, not the pope. I know that I am not going to purgatory because I am not cleansed by purgatorial fires but by the blood of Christ! The testing fire is not a punishment (in 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 3), but the testing of the Spirit for eternal rewards! The Bible describes a hope that is far greater than what the Roman Catholic Church offers. A hope that is grounded not in a mere possibility, but in a reality! As it says in the epistle to the Ephesians,

And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest. But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ, by grace you have been saved, and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them. (Ephesians 2:1-10)

In the letter to the Romans it says, "Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ..." (Romans 5:1). The best the Roman Catholic Church has to offer is a mere ceasefire that can be broken anytime you commit a mortal sin, and according to Roman Catholic teaching even what they call venial sins must be punished. Roman Catholicism robs men of peace with God by denying the sufficiency of Christ's sacrifice. Jesus Christ did not come to make a ceasefire, but to make "peace through the blood of his cross" (Colossians 1:20). I do not need an infallible list of infallible books because as a Child of God I can recognize the voice of the good Shepherd in the Scriptures, as Jesus said, "My sheep hear my voice, I know them, and they follow me..." (John 10:27). And as he had said earlier, "A stranger they simply will not follow, but will flee from him, because they do not know the voice of strangers" (John 9:5). I know that the voice of the Roman Catholic Church is the voice of a stranger because it teaches a false gospel that cannot save. In his letter to the Galatians the apostle Paul says,

I am amazed that you are so quickly deserting him who called you by the grace of Christ, for a different gospel; which is really not another; only there are some who are disturbing you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to what we have preached to you, he is to be accursed! As we have said before, so I say again now, if any man is preaching to you a gospel contrary to what you received, he is to be accursed! (Galatians 1:6-9)

But I am not surprised that Scott Hahn and many others like him are leaving the gospel of Christ for the false gospel of Rome. It is as it says in the 2<sup>nd</sup> letter to the Thessalonians, "For this reason God will send upon them a deluding influence so that they will believe what is false, in order that they all may be judged who did not believe the truth, but took pleasure in wickedness" (2 Thessalonians 2:11-12). From Scott Hahn's own testimony it is clear that prior to his conversion to Roman Catholicism he hated the Roman Catholic Church, but did he ever love the gospel? It seems to me that strong delusion overcame him because he "did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved" (2 Thessalonians 2:10). As for me, it does not matter if even the whole world were to convert to Roman Catholicism, I cannot desert him who called me by the grace of Christ for a different gospel. "The love of Christ controls" me.[36] ([https://christcrucifiedforthenations.wordpress.com/2018/09/18/a-responce-to-scott-hahns-rome-sweet-home/#\\_ftn36](https://christcrucifiedforthenations.wordpress.com/2018/09/18/a-responce-to-scott-hahns-rome-sweet-home/#_ftn36)) I am his because he died for me. I am purchased by his blood, therefore my life is not my own. The decision has already been made. My Lord will not allow me to return to the Roman Catholic religion. I have crossed the ocean and burned the boat. I am not going back, but I press on to follow Christ to the heavenly Jerusalem, which is my home.

Sincerely yours,

Pierre Bruneau

[1] ([https://christcrucifiedforthenations.wordpress.com/2018/09/18/a-responce-to-scott-hahns-rome-sweet-home/#\\_ftnref1](https://christcrucifiedforthenations.wordpress.com/2018/09/18/a-responce-to-scott-hahns-rome-sweet-home/#_ftnref1)) Scott and Kimberly Hahn, *Rome Sweet Home: Our Journey to Catholicism*. Ignatius Press, San Francisco. Copyright 1993.

[2] ([https://christcrucifiedforthenations.wordpress.com/2018/09/18/a-responce-to-scott-hahns-rome-sweet-home/#\\_ftnref2](https://christcrucifiedforthenations.wordpress.com/2018/09/18/a-responce-to-scott-hahns-rome-sweet-home/#_ftnref2)) Chapter 3. P-28

[3] ([https://christcrucifiedforthenations.wordpress.com/2018/09/18/a-responce-to-scott-hahns-rome-sweet-home/#\\_ftnref3](https://christcrucifiedforthenations.wordpress.com/2018/09/18/a-responce-to-scott-hahns-rome-sweet-home/#_ftnref3)) Chapter 3. P-41

[4] ([https://christcrucifiedforthenations.wordpress.com/2018/09/18/a-responce-to-scott-hahns-rome-sweet-home/#\\_ftnref4](https://christcrucifiedforthenations.wordpress.com/2018/09/18/a-responce-to-scott-hahns-rome-sweet-home/#_ftnref4)) LW 35:362

[5] ([https://christcrucifiedforthenations.wordpress.com/2018/09/18/a-responce-to-scott-hahns-rome-sweet-home/#\\_ftnref5](https://christcrucifiedforthenations.wordpress.com/2018/09/18/a-responce-to-scott-hahns-rome-sweet-home/#_ftnref5)) LW 35:395-397

[6] ([https://christcrucifiedforthenations.wordpress.com/2018/09/18/a-responce-to-scott-hahns-rome-sweet-home/#\\_ftnref6](https://christcrucifiedforthenations.wordpress.com/2018/09/18/a-responce-to-scott-hahns-rome-sweet-home/#_ftnref6)) Chapter 3. P-42

[7] ([https://christcrucifiedforthenations.wordpress.com/2018/09/18/a-responce-to-scott-hahns-rome-sweet-home/#\\_ftnref7](https://christcrucifiedforthenations.wordpress.com/2018/09/18/a-responce-to-scott-hahns-rome-sweet-home/#_ftnref7)) An excerpt from "An Introduction to St. Paul's Letter to the Romans," Luther's German Bible of 1522 by Martin Luther, 1483-1546 Translated by Rev. Robert E. Smith from DR. MARTIN LUTHER'S VERMISCHTE DEUTSCHE SCHRIFTEN. Johann K. Irmischer, ed. Vol. 63 (Erlangen: Heyder and Zimmer, 1854), pp.124-125. [EA 63:124-125] August 1994

[8] ([https://christcrucifiedforthenations.wordpress.com/2018/09/18/a-responce-to-scott-hahns-rome-sweet-home/#\\_ftnref8](https://christcrucifiedforthenations.wordpress.com/2018/09/18/a-responce-to-scott-hahns-rome-sweet-home/#_ftnref8)) LW 34:175-176

[9] ([https://christcrucifiedforthenations.wordpress.com/2018/09/18/a-responce-to-scott-hahns-rome-sweet-home/#\\_ftnref9](https://christcrucifiedforthenations.wordpress.com/2018/09/18/a-responce-to-scott-hahns-rome-sweet-home/#_ftnref9)) Chapter 4. P-50

[10] ([https://christcrucifiedforthenations.wordpress.com/2018/09/18/a-responce-to-scott-hahns-rome-sweet-home/#\\_ftnref10](https://christcrucifiedforthenations.wordpress.com/2018/09/18/a-responce-to-scott-hahns-rome-sweet-home/#_ftnref10)) Chapter 4. P-50

[11] ([https://christcrucifiedforthenations.wordpress.com/2018/09/18/a-responce-to-scott-hahns-rome-sweet-home/#\\_ftnref11](https://christcrucifiedforthenations.wordpress.com/2018/09/18/a-responce-to-scott-hahns-rome-sweet-home/#_ftnref11)) Chapter 8. P-139

[12] ([https://christcrucifiedforthenations.wordpress.com/2018/09/18/a-responce-to-scott-hahns-rome-sweet-home/#\\_ftnref12](https://christcrucifiedforthenations.wordpress.com/2018/09/18/a-responce-to-scott-hahns-rome-sweet-home/#_ftnref12)) (FC, Vol 48, *The Homilies of St. Jerome: Vol. 1, On the Psalms* (at Psalm 147), Homily 57 (Washington D.C.: The Catholic University of America Press, 1964), p. 410.

[13] ([https://christcrucifiedforthenations.wordpress.com/2018/09/18/a-responce-to-scott-hahns-rome-sweet-home/#\\_ftnref13](https://christcrucifiedforthenations.wordpress.com/2018/09/18/a-responce-to-scott-hahns-rome-sweet-home/#_ftnref13)) Chapter 4. P-51

[14] ([https://christcrucifiedforthenations.wordpress.com/2018/09/18/a-responce-to-scott-hahns-rome-sweet-home/#\\_ftnref14](https://christcrucifiedforthenations.wordpress.com/2018/09/18/a-responce-to-scott-hahns-rome-sweet-home/#_ftnref14)) Chapter 5. P-71

[15] ([https://christcrucifiedforthenations.wordpress.com/2018/09/18/a-responce-to-scott-hahns-rome-sweet-home/#\\_ftnref15](https://christcrucifiedforthenations.wordpress.com/2018/09/18/a-responce-to-scott-hahns-rome-sweet-home/#_ftnref15)) Chapter 5. P-72

[16] ([https://christcrucifiedforthenations.wordpress.com/2018/09/18/a-responce-to-scott-hahns-rome-sweet-home/#\\_ftnref16](https://christcrucifiedforthenations.wordpress.com/2018/09/18/a-responce-to-scott-hahns-rome-sweet-home/#_ftnref16)) Chapter 5. P-72

[17] ([https://christcrucifiedforthenations.wordpress.com/2018/09/18/a-responce-to-scott-hahns-rome-sweet-home/#\\_ftnref17](https://christcrucifiedforthenations.wordpress.com/2018/09/18/a-responce-to-scott-hahns-rome-sweet-home/#_ftnref17)) Chapter 5. P-73

[18] ([https://christcrucifiedforthenations.wordpress.com/2018/09/18/a-responce-to-scott-hahns-rome-sweet-home/#\\_ftnref18](https://christcrucifiedforthenations.wordpress.com/2018/09/18/a-responce-to-scott-hahns-rome-sweet-home/#_ftnref18)) The full title is: World Christian Encyclopedia: A Comparative Survey of Churches and Religions in the Modern World.

[19] ([https://christcrucifiedforthenations.wordpress.com/2018/09/18/a-responce-to-scott-hahns-rome-sweet-home/#\\_ftnref19](https://christcrucifiedforthenations.wordpress.com/2018/09/18/a-responce-to-scott-hahns-rome-sweet-home/#_ftnref19)) The encyclopedia states: "A denomination is defined in this encyclopedia as an organized aggregate of worship centers or congregations of similar ecclesiastical tradition within a specific country; i.e. as an organized Christian church or tradition or religious group or community of believers, within a specific country, whose component congregations and members are called by the same denominational name in different areas, regarding themselves as one autonomous Christians church distinct from other denominations, churches and traditions. As defined here, world Christianity consists of 6 major ecclesiastico-cultural blocs, divided into 300 major ecclesiastical traditions, composed of over 33,000 distinct denominations in 238 countries, these denominations themselves being composed of over 3,400,000 worship centers, churches or congregations." (Barret et al, volume 1, page 16, table 1-5)

- [20] ([https://christcrucifiedforthenations.wordpress.com/2018/09/18/a-responce-to-scott-hahns-rome-sweet-home/#\\_ftnref20](https://christcrucifiedforthenations.wordpress.com/2018/09/18/a-responce-to-scott-hahns-rome-sweet-home/#_ftnref20)) Chapter 5. P-73
- [21] ([https://christcrucifiedforthenations.wordpress.com/2018/09/18/a-responce-to-scott-hahns-rome-sweet-home/#\\_ftnref21](https://christcrucifiedforthenations.wordpress.com/2018/09/18/a-responce-to-scott-hahns-rome-sweet-home/#_ftnref21)) John 3:5
- [22] ([https://christcrucifiedforthenations.wordpress.com/2018/09/18/a-responce-to-scott-hahns-rome-sweet-home/#\\_ftnref22](https://christcrucifiedforthenations.wordpress.com/2018/09/18/a-responce-to-scott-hahns-rome-sweet-home/#_ftnref22)) Chapter 8. P-137
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