Feed My Lambs Why the Lord's Table Should Be Restored to Covenant Children By Tim Gallant

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Preface

Why Read this Book? May You Read this Book? How to Read this Book Acknowledgements

Introduction

Recent History

John Calvin

Terminology

1. One Bread, One Body

Matthew 19: The Status of New Covenant Children

New Covenant Anticipation: The Impulse of Universalization Jeremiah 31: breadth of benefits Isaiah: stable generations

New Testament Confirmation

Galatians 3:27-28: universal inheritance 1 Corinthians 10:16-17: a universal table 1 Corinthians 7:14: the calling of the covenant children 1 Corinthians 12:13: sacramental parallelism Marriage Supper and Lord's Supper Circumcision and baptism

John 6: Sacrament and Reality

"Feed My Lambs"

2. A Passover Lamb for Little Lambs

Passover Participation in Exodus 12 Dependent upon catechization? The Passover count Passover and the stranger

Deuteronomy 16:16: Rights and Requirements

New Testament Evidence Concerning Passover Participation Luke 2: did Jesus wait until age 12? The numbering of the five thousand: a Passover count? The Last Supper

Passover Requirements and Children

Passover in Jewish Practice

The Positive Case for Passover as a Household Benefit Admission in Exodus 12 The 'feast in the wilderness' The terms of Deuteronomy 12

Passover and the Lord's Supper: Relevance The time and form of institution Other New Testament connections Lord's Supper and the other Old Testament meals Lord's Supper and the Day of Atonement Implications of the connection

3. Our Children and 1 Corinthians 11

Appeals Against Paedocommunion from 1 Corinthians 11

Exposition of Passage

Broader context

11:17-22: the problem

- 11:23-25: the reminder
- 11:26-27: implications of the Supper
- 11:28-32: the safeguarding of the Supper
- 11: 33-34 the outcome

4. Children at the Lord's Table in History

Contrary Evidence? Second century Fathers Origen

Paedocommunion in the Early Church Justin Martyr Cyprian The Apostolic Constitutions Augustine Leo the Great

Which Comes First – Practice or Theology? The Decline and Fall of Paedocommunion The Hussites: An Attempt at Revival Post-Reformation Period The State of the Question Today

5. Objections Answered

I. Contrasts with Baptism A non-covenantal sacrament? An active sacrament A sacrament of demand A sacrament of communion rather than union? Baptism and Lord's Supper: a pastoral assessment

II. Objections Based on Analysis of, or Comparison to, the Old Testament

Children may not approach the alter Great Atonement, not Passover New covenant intensification of standards A sacrament only, not a meal A disciplinary meal The immature barred from meals requiring discernment III. General Objections to Paedocommunion

Hints from the physical character of the Supper
Undermines catechesis?
Confession of faith required
Deferred citizenship rights
Nothing to be gained?
Faith versus superstition
Danger of a down-grade
Biological Christianity?

Conclusion

Conclusion

Appendix 1: The Covenant of Grace and its Children

The Relationship Between Old Covenant and New

The Covenant of Grace in the Old Testament One covenant or many? The seed of the woman Theft of the seed of the woman Noah: covenant of grace or 'covenant of creation?' Abraham: recovery of the seed of the woman Mosaic meals and the covenant of grace

The Covenant of Grace and the New Testament You and your household

What About Romans 9?

Appendix 2: Consideration of Practical Issues

Paedocommunion and 'Small Change' Covenant expectations and discipline The sins of the fathers Profession of faith

What About Infant Communion?

Paedocommunion and the Reformed Confessions Prohibition and inference The desirability of revision Revision: an illustrative example Hindrances to revision

Paedocommunion and Fathers

"I'm Convinced – But My Church Isn't: What Now?" Sanctified disagreement Should my child make profession of faith?

Appendix 3: Brief Theses on Communion and Covenant Children

Bibliography

Original Sources

Books and Booklets on Paedocommunion

Papers, Articles and Audiocassettes on Paedocommunion

Denominational Reports

Biblical Studies and Doctrinal Works

Commentaries

Background Works & Other Resources

Scripture Index

Index of Names