

Children at the Lord's Table

(a digest)

Last spring Dr. John H. Boer, who is connected with the Institute for Church and Society in Ios, Nigeria, sent a lengthy article to THE BANNER entitled "Children at the Lord's Table." In it he reported how his eleven-year-old son has been wanting to take part in the Lord's supper since he was five. Boer found no good reason for excluding his son, neither was he in favor of lowering the age for public profession of faith. His proposed solution is to admit children as young as six years to the Lord's supper,' but to continue instruction classes as we have known them in our tradition. In the late teens or at twenty, a person would be expected to make a public profession of his or her faith. If not, the person would be barred from the table until he or she would make a favorable decision. "Under our present practice a young person can get by without making any decision, and no change will officially take place with respect to his status in the church .. "

[But] having enjoyed the blessings of the covenant more fully since childhood, a person of twenty years of age would be forced to think seriously about taking a stand, lest he be publicly barred from what he previously enjoyed, Our young people would then be taught more clearly that they do not have to join the church, but that, failing to profess their faith, they publicly 'unjoin.' "