by John Bunyan

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This treatise was first published in 1688, after Bunyan's death, at the end of the second edition of the *Barren Fig Tree*, with a black border round the title. It was continued in the third edition 1692, but was subsequently omitted. Although the *Barren Fig Tree* was a very popular work, this treatise was not reprinted until it was included in the present edition. It is hoped that it may yet be found to be allowed to plead as the true complete edition, which it is, from the numerous and serious doubts whether it was written by him, for these reasons:-

1. Bunyan's peculiar practice of admitting all the Lord's children to the Lord's table, all such as he hoped were spiritually baptized, without reference to water-baptism, is here directly opposed. The author refers to 1 Corinthians 12:13 as proving that water-baptism is not the baptism of which he speaks, and he says that "the Lord's Table is for those that are baptized into one body, and have drunk into one Spirit, and not for those that are only baptized with water." Bunyan's practice was based on his view that water-baptism was not the baptism of which the Scripture speaks, and that it was not a necessary preliminary to the Lord's Table.