

Letter 45: First half of May 1520, Mainz, Capito to Philip Melanchthon

Printed in *Melanchthons Briefwechsel: Kritische und kommentierte Gesamtausgabe*, ed. H. Scheible (Stuttgart-Bad Cannstatt 1977), vol. T1, p. 76, #92.

[*Summary*]: Capito reports with disapproval that Oecolampadius has entered a Brigittine monastery at Altomünster near Augsburg. He criticizes Oecolampadius for submitting himself to an unnatural yoke for the sake of religion and argues instead that it is better for a Christian to live in the world as an example to others than to live apart from the world in a monastery. He is also worried for Oecolampadius' health because he would be required to burden his body with absolute silence, vigils and fasts. Above all, he objects to the Brigittine order itself, because women have authority over men, a preposterous order in Capito's opinion.