

Letter 141: 17 August 1522, Mainz, Capito to Desiderius Erasmus

Printed in Allen V, pp. 115-117, #1308 and CWE 9, Ep. 1308.

[*Summary*]: Capito warns Erasmus that his attempts to maintain the good will of both papists and Lutherans will only earn him the hatred of both parties. Hoogstraten has condemned Erasmus' writings in Cologne. Capito is also concerned that Erasmus' letter to Duke George of Saxony will make him the target of many attacks. Luther has written a most abusive answer to Henry VIII's *Assertio septem sacramentorum*. Capito identifies himself with the papist party, and expresses fears that the Reformation is moving from verbal to physical violence. Christ is the pretense used to justify political machinations. Capito finds himself unable to mediate between the Lutheran and papist parties. Albert asks Erasmus to send him his paraphrase on John. He was moved by the paraphrases on Matthew. Oecolampadius and Caspar Hedio send their greetings.