

Letter 173: 26 October 1523, [Strasbourg], Capito to Johannes Oecolampadius

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[*Summary*]: Capito is upset that Oecolampadius and others seem to favour Caspar Hedio over him. Though still bitter, Capito is willing to forgive Hedio. It will be difficult, however, to resume relations. He gave up his post as preacher in Mainz to Hedio, and in return has been ruined by his protégé. Hedio had been insincere, claiming at one point that he had informed him of his ambitions, at another that the post was offered him unexpectedly. He deserted the people of Mainz, who were thirsting for the gospel, and looked only after his own interests. He promised to preach inoffensively, and acted like a hypocrite. Meanwhile Capito himself is unpopular with the canons of St. Thomas and the bishop of Strasbourg (see next letter). He continues to give vent to his unhappiness over what he sees as Hedio's betrayal. He will be reconciled only if Hedio preaches the gospel forcefully and sincerely. As it is, Hedio, like Erasmus, earns praise through flattery, whereas Oecolampadius and Capito are criticized because of their candour. Capito's affairs are in disarray.