

Letter 198: 25 May 1524, Wittenberg, Martin Luther to Capito

Printed in WABr 3, pp. 298-301, Ep. 748.

[*Summary*]: Luther would not have believed reports that Capito and Bucer disagree with the theologians at Wittenberg had he not heard similar reports three days earlier from colleagues returning from Strasbourg. Luther is vexed that reports of a rift are being broadcast to the detriment of the reform movement. He is used to such rumours, however, and, if he had time, he would testify in a publication that the rumour is false and that there is concord among the theologians. He is pleased that some monks and priests in Strasbourg have married. He also approves of the *Appellation der eelichen Priester von der vermaynten Excommunication des Bischoffen zu Strassburg* [cf. above, Ep. 189]. He encourages Capito to continue in the reforms that have been undertaken in Strasbourg. The weak brethren have been indulged, and it is time to act openly. Luther has decided no longer to wear the cowl. He thinks that the false rumour of the disagreement resulted from the publication of a German translation of his earlier letter to Capito [Ep. 131]. Luther states that Capito has changed since that letter: ‘Moreover, you were then both another man and a slave of the court, but now you are a freedman of Christ and a slave of the Gospel. You are entirely mine, and I am entirely yours.’ He sends his greetings to Martin Bucer, his wife and child, and the other newlyweds, especially Caspar Hedio.