

Letter 209: [31 August 1524, Strasbourg], The Strasbourg Preachers to the City Council of Strasbourg

Printed in CorrBucer 1, pp. 267-69, Ep. 74.

[*Summary*]: The preachers assure the council that they are doing their best to quell the unrest of the people. They thank the council for its support and complain of the stiff resistance of the representatives of the old church, who are *Seelmörder* (murderers of the soul). Their main opponents are [Nikolaus of Bladesheim], the prior of the Dominicans and the parish priests at St. Andreas and St. Stephan, [Paul Freuder of Ebingen and Vit Kurbach]. They are encouraged by the silence which the preachers keep in obedience to the council's decree [of 1 December 1523, which enjoined them to preach the gospel only and to keep the peace]. They ask the council to renew that decree and add the threat of legal action against those whose preaching is inconsistent with the gospel. Furthermore, it would promote peace among the people if the council demonstrated their commitment to the gospel by stopping abuses. The income from the chapel [of St. Erhard], for example, was supposed to be used for educational purposes. Instead the monks there are still obliged to perform the Catholic rites that are against the gospel teaching. The preachers urge the council to look after the education of youth.