

Letter 226: [Mid-November 1524, Strasbourg, Capito and Martin Bucer] to the Preachers [of Basel and Zurich]

Printed in CorrBucer 1, pp. 281-286, Ep. 81.

[*Summary*]: The Strasbourgers accept only two sacraments: baptism and the Lord's Supper. They would like advice on making ceremonies uniform. There is considerable controversy with Karlstadt concerning the meaning of the words consecrating the bread and wine. They do not wish to decide whether Luther or Karlstadt is right, but they consider the Lord's Supper an "external matter" (*caena dominica res sit externa*) that should not cause dissension. They are uncertain what to believe or to teach since scripture does not seem to offer a clear explanation. They only know that bread and wine, being external things, "do not contribute to salvation, whereas the memory of the Lord's death is salutary and necessary, therefore we exhort our people to eat the bread of the Lord and drink the wine for that purpose, disregarding the rest." They accept infant baptism, but on condition that adults be catechized. They describe the practice they follow in celebrating the Lord's Supper.