

Letter 259: 22 November 1525, Schwäbisch-Hall, Johannes Brenz to Capito and Martin Bucer

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[*Summary*]: Brenz is surprised that the Strasbourg preachers are offended by the principled reaction of the Wittenberg theologians. They seem unwilling to grant to others the freedom of interpretation they demand for themselves. Brenz favours religious peace, but not at the cost of concealing one's beliefs in order to present a united front to outsiders. He cannot accept their characterization of the discussion about the nature of the Eucharist as frivolous (*curiosae quaestiones*), nor can he subscribe to their interpretation of the phrase "this is my body" as a trope. He insists on the Real Presence of Christ in the bread. When he preaches sanctification through the Eucharist, he means sanctification through the Word of God. He would like to accept their invitation to visit Strasbourg and meet Lefèvre in person but is unable due to time constraints. He suggests Gemmingen as an alternative meeting place. He has heard from Theodor Billicanus that Melancthon will write against Oecolampadius' book on the Eucharist. He hopes that they will not "pour oil on the flames." He sends greetings to their fellow preachers and the French refugees, especially Lefèvre, whose contribution to secular and sacred literature he respects.