

Letter 285: 16 May 1526, Strasbourg, Capito to Ulrich Zwingli

Printed in ZwBr 2, pp. 596-7, Ep. 481

[*Summary*]: Capito reports about the disputation with a layman, the Anabaptist [Hans Wolff], a man who professes Christ and has distanced himself from the Peasants' War. Nevertheless, Wolff kept asserting that the reformers in Strasbourg were "veritable Pharisees," and paid too much attention to reforming matters external to faith. He would have them demolish statues, altars and chapels, eject monks and nuns from the monasteries, and abolish the mass. Wolff's statements aroused a strong reaction, but Capito agrees with him about the necessity of abolishing the mass.

Capito has read Zwingli's response to [Johannes] Fabri [*Uber den ungesandten Sandbrieff Fabers Zwinglis Antwort*, 30 April 1526]. Two copies have been passed around among friends in Strasbourg. Oecolampadius has written to the Basel city council to get permission to attend the Disputation [of Baden] with a letter of safe conduct. Barbara von Sargans [cf. above, Epp. 275, 278] is going to Zurich. She is a woman worthy of Zwingli's patronage and entitled to an income from her former nunnery. Oecolampadius has written about the affairs in France. He is busy reforming the remainder of the masses. Capito announces that the people in Strasbourg now have a true understanding of the Eucharist.