

Letter 297: 24 July 1526, Strasbourg, Capito to Ulrich Zwingli

Printed in ZwBr 2, pp. 669-71, Ep. 511.

[*Summary*]: Capito has obtained a copy of Fabri's pamphlet [cf. above, Ep. 289 headnote]. He has exposed Fabri's tricks through a book [see the dedicatory letter below, Ep. 298], which the Strasbourg city council is examining. The council asked him not to write anything to the Swiss Confederates or to the princes without consulting them. The delegates from Lucerne have written a second harsh letter against Capito to the Strasbourg city council, but they sent a copy of the intercepted letter [i.e. Ep. 290]. That is why Capito believes he has a solid case against [Fabri], who twisted and distorted that letter and incited the hatred of the Swiss against him. A response will have to be sent to each of the Twelve Cantons. After all, who will trust a man who opened up a sealed letter [i.e. Capito's letter to Zwingli, Ep. 290], who distorted its meaning in translation, who brought false accusations and statements against him, who caused the Swiss to threaten his messenger, and wrote behind Capito's back to the Strasbourg city council and to the *Reichsregiment*? The tables have been turned, however. Capito is hopeful that the princes will no longer suffer [Fabri's] lies. He is fearful only that the Diet of Speyer will end before he can clear his name. Zwingli may find out from the courier what else was transacted. [Philip] of Hesse is acting manfully. Saxony has two good preachers: [Johann Agricola and Georgius Spalatinus]. [Franz Irenicus], the court preacher of the Margrave of Baden, is of great service; [Adam Kraft], the preacher of Hesse, even surpasses him. If Ferdinand I and the bishops do not desist from pressing for an imperial edict and continue to oppose the Reformation with their machinations, a league between the cities and the princes, in particular, the dukes of Saxony, Hesse and Jülich, will be formed. What is in the making is still secret. Returning to the subject of the intercepted letters, Capito admits that what he wrote may have been foolish, but it was not wicked.