

Letter 312: 10 December 1526, [Strasbourg], Capito to [Ulrich Zwingli]

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[*Summary*]: The Strasbourg reformers are concerned about the church in Zurich, after hearing about the trouble caused by Catholic bribes [cf. above, Ep. 311]. In Capito's view Zwingli has zealously looked after the affairs of the church and done more than was his duty despite the danger to himself. Capito trusts in Zwingli's spirit and the constant help of the Lord. [Heinrich Brennwald], the father of Jodocus [Brennwald], has described the whole situation in a letter to the Strasbourg reformers, which Capito is passing around to friends [cf. above, Ep. 309]. Capito has not made public the news about the torture [of Thomas Wellenberg] in Winterthur. Capito regrets that Jodocus has become alienated from his betrothed [see below, Ep. 320]. He beseeches Zwingli to take his young age into account. The young woman is good and honest. Capito hopes that their relationship can be mended. The matter requires diplomacy rather than force. Capito is pleased with the measures the Zurich city council has taken against adulterers and is unperturbed by their use of capital punishment. He will show Zwingli the representations [he and Hedio made before the council on 16 April 1526] concerning adultery. The plague has not subsided. They are expecting a difficult summer. Capito will write to [Andreas] Cratander about printing Plutarch [cf. above, Ep. 311]. The Strasbourg reformers will lecture on it publicly to a large audience. Hans Denck is causing much trouble for the Strasbourg reformers. Capito does not recognize the Spirit of God in him. The question of abolishing the mass remains a difficult issue. The matter may become the subject of a public debate. [Martin] Bucer and the brethren send their greetings. Zwingli has probably received from [Johannes] Oecolampadius the ravings of "the Saxon Orestes" [Luther].