

Letter 321: 29 January 1527, Strasbourg, Johannes Oecolampadius to Capito

Printed in BrOek 2, pp. 6-8, Ep. 457.

[*Summary*]: Oecolampadius has written to [Ludwig] Hätzer, urging him either to change his immoral ways or stop burdening Capito with his presence [cf. below, Ep. 322 headnote]. He is amazed at Capito's patience with this ingrate. Oecolampadius believes that the church must distance itself from putrid members. They will have to wait and see whether Hätzer will heed his advice and repent. Capito need not be concerned about Oecolampadius' marriage plans, but his advice and prayers are appreciated. Oecolampadius is looking for a Christian wife, "a phoenix" (that is, a rare bird) or else he will remain celibate. He hopes Christ will not allow him to make a mistake, unless he wants to test him. [Jakob Meyer zum Hirzen] is aware of the matter and agrees with Capito. If only the city councillors of Basel were of the same opinion. Oecolampadius does not think his maidservant is a suitable bride. Neither her morals nor her age recommends her. He has advised her to find another master. However, lest his opponents accuse him of cruelty for dismissing her during the wintertime, he has decided to retain her for a few more months. If only he had known about her character earlier. She spread the rumour that Oecolampadius was about to get married and traduced a widow of good reputation [Wibrandis Rosenblatt?], who loved him in Christ and was willing to serve him. He is approaching the matter carefully and seeking advice from friends.

Oecolampadius thanks Bucer for his letter and greets him and the rest of the preachers. He would like news of Bonifacius [Wolfgang]. He wishes Capito's wife well. The bearer of the letter is an exile, a simple but candid Christian. He has a friend in Strasbourg, to whom he would like to be recommended by the preachers. The wife of Leonhard [Pfister], Capito's fellow-godparent, sends her greetings. Oecolampadius fears that Capito's worries will make him ill.