

Letter 357: 17 May 1528, Strasbourg, Capito to Michael Cellarius

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[*Summary*]: On Capito's initiative, Bucer has replied to [Michael] Cellarius at length [cf. *CorrBucer* 3, pp. 135-141]. He advises him to reply without passion. The Lutherans pay too much attention to the letter [in the Sacramentarian controversy], insisting that sinners, too, partake of the body of Christ. When Christ spoke of eating the bread, he meant spiritual eating, through faith. The ultimate purpose of the Supper is the commemoration of Christ's death. The teachings of the Anabaptists are intolerable, but persecution merely makes them more stubborn. They must be taught patiently and treated with lenity. It is the only way of achieving peace. Once they understand that they are offending the command of God and doing harm to the churches, the better sort of men will make concessions. The Sacramentarian controversy, driven by both Lutherans and papists, has caused much disturbance. Peace comes with freedom of conscience (*in summa enim libertate summa pax vere persisteret*). He sends greetings to Cellarius' nephew, Johann Hylart.