

Letter 418: 18 July 1530, Augsburg, Capito and Martin Bucer to Philip Melanchthon

Printed in CorrBucer 4, pp. 152-57, Ep. 317.

[*Summary*]: They prefer to speak to Melanchthon in person. As for Zwingli's [*Fidei ratio*], it contains nothing that he has not also written elsewhere. He has in common with all reformers the determination to put Christ above the pope, which is what makes them unpopular with the emperor. If Zwingli has shown passion, so has Luther in the past. That does not mean that he is not inspired by God. It is true that Zwingli's disagreement [regarding the Eucharist] goes beyond words, but only if it is interpreted in the rather primitive (*crassius*) manner, that is, "uniting Christ's body with the bread or placing him in the bread." Surely this cannot be the Lutheran interpretation. They insist that Christ's presence is real, but not localized. They themselves do not deny the Real Presence and cannot see what difference there is in their respective opinions except "that we cannot as yet agree on the words through which the mystery is to be explained; for how could it be that those who are taught and inspired by the Spirit did not agree on such an important matter?" If the participants at the Marburg Colloquy [of 1529] had been allowed to explain their views at greater length, they might have reached an agreement. They have heard that Melanchthon accuses Zwingli of departing from what was agreed on at Marburg. This is incorrect. They would like a personal meeting in the presence of Brenz and Sturm.