

Letter 433: 22 January 1531, Strasbourg, Capito to Ulrich Zwingli

Printed in ZwBw 5, pp. 312-16, Ep. 1159.

[*Summary*]: He is pleased that Zwingli's plans for a "Christian union" have not been laid in vain. The Saxons object to the election of Ferdinand as Roman king. They ignore [Luther's?] warnings against a political pact. They have made contact with Strasbourg. First, however, it is necessary to come to an agreement about the Sacramentarian question. The Strasbourg position on the Real Presence is acceptable to them: Christ's body and blood is "eaten through faith, as far as it concerns eternal bliss, and nourishes believers." Capito refuses to use the terms *substantialiter*, *essentialiter*, *realiter* since doing so would foster dissension. The political pact does not contain articles of faith. "Much is being resolved by maintaining silence." He knows that Luther will not sign any more articles. He hopes Zwingli will give a suitable interpretation to the way they are phrased now. All the important elements on which they agree are there, "the body of the Lord, the spiritual eating for the purpose of eternal life." Zwingli should not reject them because of Luther's "made-up [concept of Real] Presence" (*commentitiam Lutheri praesentiam*). Capito commends Karlstadt to Zwingli [cf. above, Epp. 410, 412]. He asks again for the hymns composed by Zwingli [see above, Ep. 427], which he wishes to bring to Bernhard [Ott]friedrich.