

Letter 435: 12 February 1531, Zurich, Ulrich Zwingli to Capito and Martin Bucer

Printed in CorrBucer 5, pp. 261-66, Ep. 389.

[*Summary*]: Zwingli disapproves of concord based on dissembling (*concordia hypoulos*), which will not hold. He, too, believes in the Real Presence. He explains his own position: Christ is present in the supper, but not naturally or corporeally, but sacramentally and symbolically, and only “in the contemplation of faith.” They may agree on words, but if they interpret them symbolically and the Lutherans literally, the agreement is not sound. Whatever phrasing is used, it needs a clear interpretation. At the next meeting in Nürnberg [which was cancelled], they ought to state that Christ’s body is eaten spiritually and sacramentally. If they make concessions now, all the old erroneous opinions will be revived. He notes that they do not mention Andreas Osiander’s letter [not extant?] and wonders whether they received it. Zwingli does not understand the involvement of the city council in this question. Is it relevant to their plans for a political alliance? He has no objection to Bucer’s letter [to Ernst of Braunschweig-Lüneburg, written in German; CorrBucer 5, Ep. 368] being published, but he sees no need for it and is afraid of misinterpretations. He asks them to take his letter in good stead.