

Letter 456a: [after 16 December 1531, Strasbourg], Capito and the Strasbourg Preachers to the City Council of Strasbourg

The manuscript of the letter is in AST 84, # 6. Printed in CorrBucer 7 (forthcoming), Ep. 525.

[*Summary*]: On the invitation of the council, the preachers offer the following suggestions concerning church discipline: they ask the council to prevent public criticism of their preaching and life style, which might create dissension among the people. They would like the council to assure the emperor that they respect and obey their superiors, but owe obedience to God first. They must speak out against the enemies of the Word of God. They repudiate the accusation that they are “murderers of the gospel and of the soul” (*schrift und seelmörder*) and administer sacraments “that are not the sacraments of Christ.” The council should invite those who criticize the preachers in guilds and chapters, to lodge an official complaint before the council so that the preachers in turn may defend themselves against such accusations. They are willing to undergo any punishment if the council finds them guilty of any trespass.