

Letter 474: 21 April 1532, Strasbourg, Capito to Heinrich Bullinger

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[*Summary*]: Capito will keep his reply brief because he also needs to write to friends in Memmingen, Esslingen, Basel, Bern, and Zurich. He counsels Bullinger to retain [Diethelm] Röist as mayor and to ensure that negotiations with Bern stay on course. The unfortunate events of the recent past call for a return to the old alliances. The Five Catholic Cantons have imposed harsh conditions on the defeated cities and driven out the ministers of the gospel. The evangelicals must keep a common front against them. Capito is pleased that the church is doing well in Zurich and that Bullinger is preparing a response to [Johannes] Fabri's [*Trostbüchlin*, 1532]. Luther's [*Sendschreiben an Herzog Albrecht von Preußen*, 1532] must either be met with silence or be answered by someone who is not closely connected with Zwingli. Capito has written about this in private letters to friends. If an official reply is necessary, he would prefer to wait until he knows the outcome of the meeting at Schweinfurt. Who can bear hearing Zwingli compared with the rebellious followers of [Thomas] Müntzer? But it is God's will, who allowed this to happen. Bullinger's reply to Fabri [*Tröstliche Verantwortung*, Zurich, June 1532] must be politic and refrain from mentioning Luther's name. [Charles V]'s aim is to obtain troops against the Turks who have invaded Hungary and to have Ferdinand endorsed as king by the princes who favour the Reformation. The election was against the regulations set down in the Golden Bull [of 1356, because it took place in Cologne and not in Frankfurt]. [Charles V] wishes to contain the Reformation, seeing that he cannot suppress it. Our delegates have been away for six weeks now without reporting back. This would indicate that no decisions have been made, and neither party is ready to make concessions. Capito has read Bullinger's letter to his friends, who send their greetings in turn. He commends [Andreas] Karlstadt to Bullinger and cautions him against the French [seeking mercenaries].