

Letter 483: 24 June 1532, Strasbourg, Capito to Heinrich Bullinger

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[*Summary*]: Capito was elated on receiving the Zurich mandate [of 29 May 1532, abrogating the mass] together with Bullinger's letter. Capito has urged concord between the three cities [Bern, Basel, Zurich?] personally and through letters. He has high hopes of Bullinger being successful in this cause. He approves of Bullinger's moderate reply to Fabri, but doubts that they can hope for the same from Leo [Jud]. While lay people support their efforts to come to an agreement with the [Lutherans], many ministers fear that they are weakening the gospel message. Bullinger must remind them that neither the princes nor the evangelical cities want to label the Zwinglians enemies. Luther's attacks [on the Zwinglians] must be ignored and are disdained even by his own people. Capito refers Bullinger to his letter to Karlstadt [not extant]. He hates nothing more than quarrels between the evangelicals. It will be sufficient if they agree that justification comes through faith rather than works. The emperor asks for support against a Turkish invasion. The Catholic princes have already given their assent; the evangelicals will hardly object, even if the emperor does not accept the conditions of religious peace. The emperor has given them permission to continue with the teaching and practices set down in the Augsburg confessions [i.e. Augsburg Confession and Apologia]. He has also permitted the conversion of ecclesiastical goods into private property and will take measures that they are not transferred from our magistrates to another Catholic jurisdiction. Finally they hope to obtain assurance that the Zwinglians will not be mentioned in an adverse manner in the articles of the concord, for they demanded earlier on that we "combat the errors of the Zwinglians and Anabaptists." The Strasbourgers promised to keep away from anyone not in agreement with the Augsburg Confession. Capito wishes that moderate minds would prevail. He sends greetings to all the ministers, to [Diethelm] Röist, and the magistrates.