

Letter 496: 5 January 1533, Strasbourg, [Capito] to Heinrich Bullinger

Printed in HBBW 3:29–31, Ep. 170.

[*Summary*]: Capito thanks Bullinger for the news about Zurich. The Strasbourgers have encouraged Basel to resume relations with Zurich. Bucer will write at greater length [see HBBW 3, Ep. 169]. He will also explain their views on the Eucharist. They want to give the Lutherans no opportunity to impugn them. Capito knows that Zwingli never denied the presence of Christ as seen with the eyes of faith, although he is otherwise in heaven. The Lutherans do not want the Eucharist to be interpreted merely as something done in memory of an absent Christ. They understand it as a spiritual eating. But Christ's spiritual presence is a true presence. The Strasbourgers say that "the true Christ is truly present at the Supper and is being offered to the believer together with the bread, as food for the soul." Augustine uses the word *significat* [signifies] and Tertullian *per figuram* [figuratively]. Some people believe that this amounts to a denial of Christ's presence. When the Lutherans use the terms *substantialiter* [in substance] and *corporaliter* [corporeally], they mean "truly." The Strasbourgers say Christ is present to the soul through faith. Thus they limit the sacrament to those who are pious; the Lutherans also include the impious. The Strasbourgers interpret everything in the best sense, for the sake of peace. Capito asks Bullinger to administer the Eucharist in the same spirit. The new council takes office at this time of the year, and there is no leisure to deal with religious questions. Capito asks Bullinger to write often and to greet Theodor [Bibliander], [Conradus] Pellicanus, and all the other professors and preachers. He will write to Leo [Jud] himself.