

Letter 593: 17 January 1536, [Strasbourg], Capito to Heinrich Bullinger

Printed in HBBW 6:76–80, Ep. 728.

[*Summary*]: Capito does not have Bullinger's letter at hand and replies from memory. Discord favours Satan's plan. Capito and Zwingli were in agreement and pursued the same goals, inspired by Erasmus. Capito honours the memory of Zwingli even though they had some disagreements, specifically concerning the policy that led to the defeat at Kappel and concerning Capito's attitude toward the Anabaptists. Now that a general council is in the offing, it is important for the evangelicals to have a meeting in spite of their differences of opinion. Bullinger need not worry about concessions to the Catholics. [Henry VIII] professes the gospel teaching. [Stephen Gardiner], the bishop of Winchester, warns in his tractate [*De vera obedientia*, see above, Ep. 592] against the power of the pope and any concessions to him. Others, including Bucer, are of the same opinion, as is evident from his preface to the reader [i.e., the preface to *De vera obedientia*?]. Bucer published Bullinger's letters in a friendly spirit. Capito is surprised to hear that some of his letters to Zwingli are still extant. He talked about this matter with Zwingli's widow and his friends and was assured that they had been burned. Capito has tried his best to deal with the exiles from Solothurn (*Solothurner Banditen*) in response to Bullinger's request. While in the realm of Wilhelm [von Fürstenberg], they published an apologetic pamphlet in Augsburg, [*Warhaffte entschuldigung der Neün Mannen*, December 1535], expressing surprise at Zurich for having turned hostile to them. Their complaint is vain and will soon be forgotten. The council of Strasbourg would help them if they acted within the law, but none of the exiles has come here. An [unnamed] person has become involved. The exiles are rather rigid in their attitude, but Capito hopes they will relent.

Capito regrets the danger incurred by [Guillaume] Farel and the people of Geneva. A rumour is circulating that [Francis I] has hired mercenaries. The French king has offered his assistance to German evangelicals, which is ironic in view of his persecution of French evangelicals. They place their trust in the English and the arguments in [Stephen Gardiner's] book sent by [Jakob] Bedrot. Capito reiterates the importance of a meeting between evangelicals. If Bullinger does not want to participate, it will not impact their personal friendship.