

Letter 600: 28 March [1536], Basel, Capito to Heinrich Bullinger

Printed in HBBW 6:196–9, Ep. 776.

[*Summary*]: The Tetrapolitan Confession was approved by both Zwingli and Oecolampadius. It was not considered to be incompatible with the Augsburg Confession, and they would not have published it, had it not been for the challenge issued by Johann Eck. Like the Lutherans, they made scripture and the Church Fathers the basis of their beliefs. Since the enemy has united against them, they do not think it advisable for Zurich to publish a new confession at this time. It would be best for all evangelicals to agree on one confession. Indeed Capito does not see any significant differences in their teaching and practices. They may, however, give the appearance of differing, which gave rise to Eck's jeering remark: 'There are as many churches as there are people.' For there were three camps, he said: Lutherans, Zwinglians, and the Strasbourgers 'in the middle.' At last, however, there is a will to arrive at a concord. Many tasks await them: reforming the schools and universities, safeguarding the property of the church, and making the ministers respected in the eyes of the people. They are waiting to hear from Luther the particulars of the planned meeting. Bucer has once again gone to Augsburg to establish an evangelical church there, for they have not yet abandoned the mass or removed the images [see below, Ep. 603]. Duke [Ulrich] von Württemberg is taking strong action. The churches there are reported to be almost free of idols. Capito advises Bullinger to oblige the city scribe [Werner Beyel] by providing a scholarship for his son [cf. HBBW 6, Ep. 778].