

Letter 618: [17 July 1536], Strasbourg, Capito and Martin Bucer to the Basel Preachers

In Millet, Epp. 618 and 619 are out of order chronologically. The two letters have now been switched around. The following is a summary of the 'Erlüderung der Witembergischen Articklen durch die predicanten von Straßburg gegeben' [= Explanation of the Wittenberg Articles given by the preachers of Strasbourg]. It is printed in BDS 6/1:217–26, no. 16.

[*Summary*]: Simon Grynaeus and Andreas Karlstadt have come to discuss the Wittenberg articles. The Strasbourgers asked them to voice any reservations they had. They discussed and clarified the following points:

- (1) The presence of the body and blood in the bread and wine are not an 'earthly mixture' (*irdische vermischung*); the signs, bread and wine, are earthly; the body and blood are heavenly.
- (2) They did not accept transubstantiation or local presence; they accept the real presence of Christ – the sacrament is not just a sign.
- (3) They cite Hilary, Chrysostom, Cyril, and Augustine for the use of the terms 'natural' to designate the spiritual effect of eating the Lord's body and drinking his blood. The meaning of the Wittenberg Article is the same as that given by Oecolampadius.
- (4) Sinners also receive the body and blood of the Lord, but are unworthy of it. They do not refer here to completely depraved men and unbelievers. This corresponds to the teaching of Oecolampadius.

They discussed other points as well but found the article concerning the Holy Supper the most difficult and therefore put their explanation in writing. Grynaeus and Karlstadt will relate the remainder orally. There is nothing in the Wittenberg Articles that cannot also be found in scripture and in the Fathers, that has not been taught by Oecolampadius and is not contained in Zwingli's answer to the German princes.