

## **Third Article Apologetics and Conversions**

[For IAMS-2016 Study Groups: Healing/Pneumatology]

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Apologetics has primarily remained Christological in its focus. This is not without reasons. From the time of the early church, the primary concerns/heresies were related to the deity of Christ and consequently the early church fathers spent more time clarifying Christological questions. The deity of the Spirit faced fewer problems and came to be settled along with the formalization of the Trinitarian doctrine in the council of Nicaea. While the Eastern churches maintained a relative importance of the Spirit in its theological engagements, the Spirit disappeared from modern discussions, especially within the Western Church, which has adversely impacted the rest of the world as well.

Given this slant in theological discussions, apologetics, as a sister discipline of theology, is left with a great deal to explore in terms of its pneumatological underpinnings. In this paper, I intend to explore the possible shape of apologetics if we were to start with the Spirit. Spirit, the third article in the Nicaeo-Constantinopolitan creed, following the Father and the Son, has only recently come into theological focus. The “third article” is *the Spirit* in the Nicene Creed, hence the title.

This paper also explores the issue of conversion from a pneumatological angle. As the counselor who leads us into all truth, the Spirit is the mediator (both ontological and epistemological) between humans and God, who is the Truth. In the process, I explore both the objective and subjective forks of conversion from a pneumatological angle: 1) pertaining to the epistemic function of the Spirit as the truth provider and 2) Spirit as the provider of the subjective condition to believe.