



Human Soul in Catherine of Siena (1347–1380)

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Following the philosophical psychology of St. Augustine, Catherine of Siena argues that the human soul has a tripartite structure: memory, understanding, and will. Made in God's image, the three psychological faculties of the soul reflect the three divine persons in the Christian godhead. In a dialogue with the human soul, God explains the trinitarian source and purpose of each of the three faculties: "I provided you with the gift of memory so that you might hold fast my benefits and be made a sharer in my own, the eternal Father's power. I gave you understanding so that in the wisdom of my only-begotten Son you might comprehend and know what I the eternal Father want, I who gave you graces with such burning love. I gave you a will to love, making you a sharer in the Holy Spirit's mercy, so that you might love what your understanding sees and knows" (*Dialogue* 135). The human soul is not only made in the trinitarian image of God; it is united to the three divine persons through knowledge and loving action due to God's providential design.

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