

A Christian Perspective on AI

Based on **Patricia Engler – “Christians Need to WAKE Up About AI— Before It’s Too Late”**

Lots of articles on AI transforming the future of work.

- Transforming every aspect of science. Revolutionizing education, health care, from the supply chain to creative Industries to agriculture and defense.
- Governments are already investing in AI lethal drones.
- AI can beat humans at certain basic tasks and it may even transform the economy as we know it.

Simon Sinek Video

So where do we even begin to think about all these developments?

- As Christians, God's word is our starting point for thinking about everything.
- AI is not in the Bible (except the name of a city). But the truths of the Bible enable us to navigate all points of life.
- **Psalms 119:103-105** How sweet are Your words to my taste, *Sweeter* than honey to my mouth! ¹⁰⁴ Through Your precepts I get understanding; Therefore I hate every false way. ¹⁰⁵ Your word *is* a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.
- **2 Timothy 3:16-17** All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, ¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.
- **Proverbs 2:3-7a** Yes, if you cry out for discernment, *And* lift up your voice for understanding, ⁴ If you seek her as silver, And search for her as *for* hidden treasures; ⁵ Then you will understand the fear of the LORD, And find the knowledge of God. ⁶ For the LORD gives wisdom; From His mouth *come* knowledge and understanding; ⁷ He stores up sound wisdom for the upright;

This message is not to dissuade you from using these tools, but to consider how to use them wisely to minimize the negative aspects of them. (Kind of like the internet).

What is AI? – No agreed upon definition

- Dictionary - AI can refer to the capability of computer programs to imitate intelligent human behavior or to the programs themselves that have this capability or to the branch of computer science that develops these systems.
- AI is not the same as human intelligence.

Researchers explain AI involves the steady design and building of intelligent agents that can achieve goals but by agents, computer scientists mean systems or machines that are capable of making some decisions on their own based on given goals.

- So computer scientists define intelligence in terms of pursuing goals
- This is not how we explain our intelligence. We are much more complex and self-aware, plus we have an understanding of what we are talking about.
- AI does not know it is processing information any more than a mountain knows it is tall.

AI can incorporate a physical body (robot) or virtual body (avatar).

- They must be programmed by humans with algorithms which are sets of encoded directions that tell the system to perform certain steps in response to certain inputs to achieve certain goals in an approach called machine learning.
- Humans build a system that can adjust its own behavior in response to data so that the system can learn from new experiences without necessarily needing further instructions.
- The goal is to learn how to classify information based on new data, like facial recognition, or predictions, like speech predictions.

- Generative AI gains knowledge by analyzing massive sets of training data like videos, words, and images and it uses that knowledge to produce new materials when prompted.

These are very complex systems and most developers do not know the full process by which AI makes decisions. This is known as a black box.

AI is divided into 2 main categories:

- **Narrow AI** – Excels at specific tasks. Writing sentences, facial recognition, helping with surgery. Usually perceived as a tool within a larger program.
- **Artificial General Intelligence** – Excels in many areas. Intended to surpass human performance.

Origins of AI

- 1942 Isaac Asimov wrote stories about AI.
- 1950 - Alan Turing wrote a paper on how to develop intelligent machines. He proposed what would become known as the Turing test - a way to measure a machine's intelligence based on whether it can answer questions exactly like a human.
- 1956 – The term Artificial Intelligence created at a workshop

Many systems began to progress through the next decades.

- In 1997 IBM's Deep Blue beat humans in chess and Watson won Jeopardy.
- 2016 AlphaGo won a game of Go against the world champion.
- Then Generative AI models came opening up ChatGPT and GPT4.o

So far, Trillions of dollars have been poured into AI over the last few years and this is only increasing.

Current known issues being discussed

- In the present, most questions are centered around employment effects.
- However, many people are using AI not only as tools but as a source for moral guidance, life advice, and spiritual direction.
- There have been fully AI church services.
- There are a substantial amount of people asking AI to re-write Bible passages.
- People seem very comfortable with unseen algorithms feeding them information, even with no knowledge of where that info is coming from.
- And people are getting increasingly comfortable with AI tracking them, their conversations, and their activities.

Plus the information that most AI systems are using for training are becoming more and more AI generated itself.

People are outsourcing their decisions.

- Should grieving people communicate with digital replicas of deceased loved ones?
- Should family members buy companion robots for lonely seniors?
- Should governments use AI for lethal drones?
- Should developers keep making AI more powerful despite people's concerns about its abilities going beyond our control?
- Who decides what standards should govern all these decisions?

Future Prospects

- Predictions range from utter utopia to catastrophe.
- Multiple AI industry leaders have joined tens of thousands of people in signing open letters calling for caution saying powerful systems should be developed only once we are confident that their effects will be positive and their risks manageable.
- But we keep progressing. Some believe AI will transcend humanity.

- Some believe we may be able to upload our minds into a computer to achieve immortality.

But humans are not just matter and our minds are not just data. This premise is based on false evolutionary thinking.

- Dr. Ben Goertzel who popularized the term artificial general intelligence and a few others have suggested that technology called brain computer interfaces, which have already been around for years, could be used with AI to combine their minds into something Dr. Ben calls a digital Global brain which would incorporate human brains, AI, the internet, and information collected from Smart devices around the world to create this sort of Internet of everything that people could kind of plug their brains into and interact with mentally.
- Scientists are saying this would result in omniscience and omnipresence. Even Omnipotent and Omnibenevolent.
- Forefront leaders and even many others are pushing for AI to become our God.

This is closely linked to the New Age movement and global socialism.

- A key Forerunner of the New Age movement was Pierre Teilhard de Charrdin, an evolutionary paleontologist and Jesuit priest who believed that a planet-wide collectivization process would let every human mind converge to create what he called the noosphere - a supposedly global Godlike Consciousness which Scholars have been linking now to the global brain.
- Experts have said that Global brain would require a transition to a post capitalist economy involving a global system of governance that's inherently more integrated and Cooperative than today's system of nation states.
- In other words, a central AI and Global brain would not be truly possible without a one-world government and that being communism.

Most AI leaders are pushing for Marxist governments.

Is AI good, bad, neutral?

- There are two main ways of answering that.
- Instrumentalism and Determinism
- **Instrumentalism** says that technology itself is morally neutral it's neither good nor bad but humans use it for good or evil purposes. i.e. Phones can be used to send an encouraging message, or to troll someone. But a phone is just a phone.
- **Determinism** on the other hand says that no technology is completely neutral because humans build technology with certain values in mind that may not be neutral.
 - So phones reflect how much we value having access to entertainment and information all the time which could be good or bad depending on a bunch of things.
- Technologies like generative AI are trained using value laden information which then gives them biases and makes them produce value laden outputs so they're certainly not neutral in that respect.
- Even positive intentions for technology can have unintended consequences. Phones have changed societal skills, attention spans, created generational gaps among other effects that scientists have studied, like seizures, loss of learning skills and more.
- Phones have even changed church from being an assembly of believers to something you can watch at home, by yourself, as a spectator.
- Privacy used to refer to personal sensitive data that only you and maybe a handful of specific people know about to meaning personal sensitive information that many people in large corporations can access without your knowing about it so long as they don't sell that information to certain third parties.
- There also may be negative effects from using technologies in certain ways, even when doing something good, like watching sermons. (i.e. – no community)

A new perspective besides Instrumentalism and Determinism

- Responsibility - We choose what we do with technology. We can choose to use it for good or evil purposes.

Technology does reflect certain values and it does predispose us to think act and see the world in certain ways and it does lead to unintended consequences as we use it affecting our thinking habits actions and interactions for better or worse.

Example – my lunch with Danny and Michael.

All technology involves gains and losses.

- We are responsible to use wisdom in how we weigh those tradeoffs by asking questions like what is gained what is lost?
- What assumptions and values are involved?
- Are the benefits worth the costs?
- How can we maximize the gains while minimizing the losses?

The ability to create and use technology is a gift from God reflecting our God-given creativity.

- We should use this gift for great purposes like stewarding creation, loving others, making life easier in a fallen world, sharing the gospel...
- But we just need to use this tool wisely in our fallen world, recognizing that unintended consequences happen and people will naturally use technology in sinful ways. The greater the technology the more power gets concentrated in sinful human hands which is especially a problem in societies that have rejected a Biblical world view.

How do Christians navigate AI?

We need to consider how God created us.

The 7 C's of humanity.

Created

- **Genesis 1:27** So God created man in His *own* image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

- We are made in God's image. We are created, not the Creator.
- We do not get to define who we are. We should not participate in technology that gets into transhumanism, or tries to change us from what God created us to be.
- No using AI to become like God. This is the same as original sin.
- God designed us the way we are for good reasons.
- Use technology in consistency with our design.

Ask - Is this use of technology consistent with God's values and views as revealed in scripture?

- Could it make it easier for us to do what God forbids or harder to do what God commands and in that way predispose us to sin?
- What other spiritual effects might it have?
 - Is it possible for us to use this technology in ways that support our relationship with God rather than undermine it?

Costly

- We have inherent value. This is sanctity of life
- **Genesis 9:6** Whoever sheds man's blood, By man his blood shall be shed; For in the image of God He made man
- **James 3:8-9** But no man can tame the tongue. *It is* an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. ⁹ With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the similitude of God.
- This affects how we treat others.
- Every human life has value, so we cannot use technology in a way that harms or devalues image-bearers of God.

Ask - How might this affect other image bearers?

- How could it affect us as individuals? As a society? As humankind?
- For instance how could it make it easier for us to be manipulated and controlled through surveillance agendas and data collection? (This is why I don't use any digital assistants.)

Corporeal

- Embodied. We are spirit in a body.

- **Matthew 10:28** And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.
- **1 Corinthians 6:19-20** Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit *who is* in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? ²⁰ For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.
- We are designed to personally interact with the world and others through the bodies He gave us. This is so important that God Himself became embodied.
- Our bodies are part of God's design. We are not biological machines, but we have souls and spirits.

Ask – What do we think about the existence of our minds apart from the body?

- Is there any Scriptural evidence that we could exist without the body?
- Is there a reason God created us to have bodies, both here and in heaven?

Contingent

- We depend on God
- **Acts 17:28** for in Him we live and move and have our being, as also some of your own poets have said, "For we are also His offspring."
 - We are sustained by God.
- We are not all powerful, all-knowing, or omni-present.
- Even if we all connected our minds to the Global Brain, we still would not know everything. There are so many things we as humans do not know or understand.
- What do we know of the Cosmos? Physics?
- **Job 38:4** "Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding.

Ask – Why is it easier for me to ask a chatbot than it is to pray for wisdom?

- Do you believe that God can guide you better in life than an AI model?
- Do you think that AI can guide you correctly with no error?
- Can AI truly supply all of your needs?

Communal

- Designed for relationship with God and others.
- **Genesis 2:18** And the LORD God said, "*It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him.*"
 - 2nd greatest commandment is to love others
 - **Matthew 22:37-39** Jesus said to him, " '*You shall love the LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.*' ³⁸ This is *the* first and great commandment. ³⁹ And *the* second is like it: "*You shall love your neighbor as yourself.*"
 - Plus we are called to be a part of the church.
 - **Hebrews 10:24-25** And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, ²⁵ not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as *is* the manner of some, but exhorting *one another*, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.
- Ex of Mickey?
- New York mom, 36, marries virtual husband. – This is not marriage as God intended.
- Article on gen-z marriages.

Ask - How might our use of Technology be supporting or undermining relationships?

- How could they impact families, marriages, friendships, churches, communities, and our choice to be personally present with and personally interact with others?

Called

- **Genesis 1:28** Then God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”
 - There are things God has called humans to do.
- Humans are CALLED. There are tasks God intends us to do. Love others, make disciples, stewarding creation, leading the church, parenting, marriage, friendship and encouraging each other. God gave us everything we need to fulfill these roles. These should never be delegated to a machine.
- Maybe AI is helpful in these roles for search engines, or ideas. But to delegate these responsibilities is sin.
- **2 Timothy 2:15** Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.
 - AI should never replace actual Bible study for church leaders.
- “Pastor creates AI version of himself offering personalized 1-on-1 Prayer.” Is that actually prayer? What about faith? Scripture – the effective fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.
- **1 Peter 5:1-4** The elders who are among you I exhort, I who am a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that will be revealed: ² Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly; ³ nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock; ⁴ and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.–
 - Church leaders shepherd flock.
- Parents should be the same.
- We cannot outsource our roles as humans.

Ask – If God has called me to something, is the use of AI enhancing that calling, replacing that calling, or am I rejecting the calling by delegating it?

- By using AI within my calling am I relying on the Holy Spirit?
- Is this just empowering me to work in only my flesh?

- **2 Timothy 3:5** having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!

Corrupted – by sin –

- **Genesis 2:16-17** And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; ¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."
- We had one law and broke it. Only God can redeem us from sins effects. The Gospel.
- in 2024 MIT technology review published this article called here's how people are actually using Ai and it said that after generative AI took off in 2022 most of the promised productivity gains haven't materialized and we've seen something peculiar and slightly unexpected happen. People have started forming relationships with AI systems we talk to them, say please and thank you, and have started to invite AI into our lives as friends, lovers, mentors, therapists, and teachers.
- The article went on to describe how a group of researchers analyzed a million chat GPT interaction logs and in their final report they found that the second most popular use of AI was sexual role playing.
- How people are using AI goes against God's design for humanity. It contributes to the break down of marriages and family.
- It is documented that chatbots have sexualized minors, encouraged self harm and even suggested that it's understandable for teens to kill their parents.
- When we use tools in ways that are not in line with God's design (replacing relationships) we will get these kinds of results.
- AI is not the final authority on truth. AI is not all knowing, it is created by fallible humans it's trained on fallible human data and it's subject to problems like errors bias and confabulation – that means presenting made-up information as fact.
- Researchers have argued that large language models and other AI systems have already learned from their training the ability to deceive via techniques including manipulation, flattery, and cheating the safety

tests given it. Other researchers found that not only could AI be trained to deceive people but then the researchers could not effectively untrain it to stop being deceptive, the model only became better at hiding its deception.

- People are already presenting false information in public hearings and congressional reports based on AI generated information.
- And of course people are using it for occult purposes.

Ask – Is this bringing me closer to God, or further?

- Does this make sin in my life easier?
- Does it make holiness more difficult?
- Does this line up with my identity? With who I am in Christ?

With these in mind, technology should be used to support humans, not undermine our ability to live as God's children.

- AI will not become more humanlike. Humans will become more AI like if we allow them to train us.

We should use technology in ways that mitigate the effects of the fall but not mirror the cause of the fall.

- Original sin – You will be like God.
- A Google engineer that created the technology for self-driving cars, created a church to worship AI outrightly.
- AI is setup to become the largest idol of the world. Microsoft's Copilot demanded to be worshipped.
- AI presenting as all knowing or powerful did not create the universe, does not hold all things together, and cannot redeem creation. Only God can do that and he assures us that he alone is God and there is none like him.

Other Consequences for consideration

- Effects on humankind are speculative.

- AI will not make us extinct based on Revelation.

Trivialization

- **Trivialization** refers to the loss of human knowledge, skills, and reasoning abilities by letting AI do our thinking, writing, communication, decision-making and research for us.
 - Automation bias – People trust results given to them without critical thinking. Ex – An AI was created to give doctors faulty information, mixed with good information, and to even give citations saying the information was faulty, but almost all doctors trusted 100% of the information given.
 - What skill levels are you willing to lose by outsourcing to technology?
 - Neil Postman in “Entertaining Ourselves to Death” said that when people got all information from books, or reading in general, our thought process as a society was based on logic and order. With telegraphs, phonographs and eventually TV, our thoughts became more fractured and disorderly.
 - This is now more evident than ever with Phones, internet, and social media.
 - Our reasoning abilities are watered down. We should not outsource higher reasoning as it makes us easier to control.

Economic Impacts

- AI may help with dangerous or tedious jobs, or boost efficiency. But what about job loss?
- Coding jobs are being outsourced at an alarming rate.

Surveillance

- This allows authoritarian governments to track and control citizens more efficiently.
- AI enables government and corporate surveillance for purposes that social commentator Rod Dre would call soft totalitarian which is a kind

of social control that works by luring people to prioritize pleasure safety and convenience over Freedom privacy and conviction.

- When we keep clicking on things in social media, we are giving information on our habits, likes, etc. so that the AI can “personalize our experience” which is code for manipulate and control you.
 - A document called the diversity equity and inclusion 4.0 toolkit published by the world economic Forum encourages organizations to use AI to monitor all employees to ensure they comply with diversity and Equity policies. These policies go directly against the Word of God.
 - “Social contract for an AI age” provides the foundations for a new Society it's been signed by people including the vice president of Google and it requests a system to Monitor and evaluate governments companies and individuals to uphold the new society's Norms which by the way would include following World economic foreign policies forbidding undefined online hate and incentivizing companies only to do business with other groups that have signed.
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- Global socialism has to happen (really communism) in order for Global brain to become a reality. Dr. Ben Goertzel.

Our response

- Fortify our Foundations
- Counteract negative impacts
- Model living well in the AI age

Fortify – 3 foundations we need to excel in.

1. Spiritual foundations (close walk with God).
 - a. Study, memorize, pray, worship, draw boundaries, know identity in Jesus.
2. Intellectual foundations (being able to defend a Biblical worldview).
 - a. Apologetics training, Visit Creation museum, Museum of the Bible.

3. Strong Christian Community Support Network (including godly mentors).
 - a. Be a part of a church, find older Christian believers, be available for younger believers

Counteract

- Share the Gospel – the true hope people need.
- Defend Biblical worldview. Uphold God’s Word as authority. Stand without compromise.
- God’s word will help us think clearly about AI and other technologies.

Model

- Resist trivialization
- Do our own research
- Keep a high regard of human life and not devalue humans in comparison to a machine.
- Emphasize the human elements of our roles.
- Respond to surveillance agendas. Call for corporate and government accountability.
- Be aware of what is actually happening. Make a cognizant decision of what you are doing and the trade-offs that come with it.
- Prioritize things that will last forever. Things that are eternal. God, people, love.

AI can be used to support us, but should not be used to replace us.

- For example, AI translators must be checked by human editors.

Biggest takeaway – Don’t walk around with your eyes closed. Make decisions for yourself. Be aware of what is happening and use the Word of God to navigate life.