

Introduction

- The definition of AI is debated, but simply means a computer doing complex tasks.
- Generative AI is a specific kind of AI used to create new content using human data.
- There are generative AIs that create music, i.e. Elvis singing a heavy metal song.
- Some AI creates art and pictures, these are flooding Facebook and social media.
- Some AI can create videos, even of existing people.
- The most popular AI can write and create text, like books, articles, and papers.
- As AI becomes more prevalent, we need a Christian view of AI.

Claims About AI

- It can accomplish complex tasks making human life easier and more efficient.
- Eventually, humanity can escape the oppression of labor and only have leisure.
- It allows people to create things they were previously unable to.
- AI has already revolutionized the world and everyone must get on board with it.
- It is just a technological tool (like letters) and resistance is foolish and misguided.
- Some Christians claim we can just make a Christian version of AI.
- AI creators and proponents frequently exaggerate abilities and the future.
- The ultimate desire is to create a true AI, that is indistinguishable from humans.

Uses in the World

- Students are using AI for their homework at every level of academia.
- Companies, celebrities, and politicians are using AI more in their public statements.
- Hollywood wants AI to replace writers and even actors.
- AI has been used to create pornography of anyone someone desires.
- Scammers have used AI to impersonate someone's family members.
- AI has been used to create "companion" apps for relationships.
- Much of social media and "news" is filled with AI content.

Uses in Christian Spaces

- Pastors use AI for sermon content, editing, newsletters, or sermon questions.
- AI creates Bible and theology content and articles.
- There are apps where you can chat with AI versions of Bible characters.
- Some claim Christians should use it like Paul used letters or we use media.

Issues to Consider

- Does using AI lead to a greater love for God and others?
- Does this lead to an increased laziness?
- Efficiency and productivity are not ends in themselves and poor guides for morality.
- AI is guided by the ethics of its designers, which may or may not be Christian.
- The poor imitation of beauty and truth, as it often lies.

Christian Principles

- Even the ultimate AI is not made in the image of God, like human beings.
- Work is a good part of what it means to be human, and not a curse.
- It is not just the product of what we create but how it shapes us.
- Tools change our relationship with work and the world.
- We need to seek beauty and truth (Philippians 4:8-9).
- We need to continue to develop critical thinking skills and avoid easy acceptance.
- We need to not conform but to test (Romans 12:2).
- Our lives seek faithfulness and the glory of God, not endless leisure.

Other Problems

- It does not create like God, or sub-create like humans, but sub-sub-creates.
- Every single computer function is now being marketed as AI.
- It often gets information wrong, especially if you know the subject well.
- Much of the creation has involved theft and plagiarism of human work.
- It is making humanity less intelligent and ruining critical thinking skills.

Identifying AI

- Check the sources and the quotes because AI will create false ones.
- It lacks depth, nuance, and the ability to analyze data. It can give you a summary of a book but not a discussion of the differences
- It will overuse bullet points and summaries.
- It lacks a distinct tone or unique style of voice or writing.
- Art will get the details wrong (lighting, fingers, shadows) and look glossy.

Application

- We should avoid an uncritical adoption of AI without thought.
- We should not settle for AI slop, but only for beauty.
- We should only use AI in minor ways after careful thought.