

The Christian and AI

Opening Questions - discuss in pairs:

Do you have a fair idea of what AI is and does? Do you use it at all? How do you feel about it?

What is AI – and what is technology?

"Technology is a tool that helps us live out our God-given callings... Whatever those callings may be, whether it's pastor, mum, retiree, policeman, whatever." — **Jason Thacker**

"An incredible thing has happened – an intelligence of a sort has been created out of silicon. Stop and think about that for a moment. We taught computers to recognise cats, voices, faces, tones, sarcasm, and grammar, and then to build an understanding of history, science, and literature. We've taught computers to emulate our speech, our art, our music – and we've done it so well that AI art is winning competitions intended for humans. Isn't that just mind-blowing?" — **Giles Kirkland**

"In ten years, I think we'll have chat bots that work as an expert in any domain you like. And so you'll be able to ask an expert teacher, an expert doctor, an expert lawyer for anything you need, and have those systems go accomplish things for you." — **Sam Altman**, *Founder of OpenAI*

Why should we think about AI?

"The truth is, we tend to talk about AI in ways that dehumanize us, and humanize machines. We deny our dignity by acting as if we're just advanced machines – all the while treating machines as if they're persons, with certain rights, thoughts, and even feelings." — **John Lennox**

"We dumb down what it means to be human, and treat each other like simple machines, but at the same time put our faith and hope in machines to solve the problems and ills that we deal with each day. We rightfully see where we fall short – but we put our hope in our own creations rather than in our Creator." — **Jason Thacker**

"Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them." — **Genesis 1:26-27**

Discuss with a neighbour: Given all we know, what should the Christian's response to AI be?

How Should We Respond to AI?

1. Be Thankful

"Every human innovation that benefits the world is a gift from God, for his glory, in service to his people."

— **Dr. Russell Moore**

"For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving." —

1 Timothy 4:4

2. Be Cautious

"You won't really understand artificial intelligence unless you understand sin... AI increases the power of the human race to create and to destroy. Because of sin, we know in advance that AI will be used in evil ways." — **Dr. Russell Moore**

"Now, the works of the flesh are evident: *sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these.*" — **Galatians 5:19-21**

3. Be Wise

4. Be Hopeful

Some Good resources:

Books: Stephen Driscoll: *Made in our Image*, Jason Thacker: *The age of AI*, Tony Reinke: *God, technology, and the Christian life*.

Web: Resources from The Gospel Coalition, CARE (Christian Action, Research & Education), and the Southern Baptist Convention Ethics Commission – series of principles on the use of AI.