Should Christian Scientists Fear Artificial Intelligence?

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1. What does the **Bible** say about AI?

2. Can **scientists** use AI to understand God better?

3. Is AI a threat to God and **mankind**?

AI generated images of Dr Tafara Estelle Makuni created using Lensa AI.

**Elegant
& Beautiful**

**Confident
& In-control**

**Fearful
& Weary**

Engage with AI in a way that honours biblical principles given by in the Bible.

- The Bible *does **not directly address** artificial intelligence* (AI).
- AI is a ***modern technology*** which has been developed long after biblical times.
- Apply principles regarding ***knowledge***, ***wisdom*** and ***stewardship*** to ***glorify God***.

1. Using <u>knowledge</u> responsibly and pursuing <u>wisdom</u>

[5] Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding.
[6] In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.
(Proverbs 3:5-6)

2. Exercising good <u>stewardship</u> over creation

[28] And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth."
(Genesis 1:28)

3. Doing all things for <u>God's glory</u>

[31] So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.
[21] but test everything; hold fast what is good.
(1 Corinthians 10:31 and 1 Thessalonians 5:21)

[31] And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was *very* good.
(Genesis 1:31)

Understanding God using AI

- Understanding God is a **theological** journey.
- Even **advanced AI** has limits in comprehending God.
- AI can be used to **organise and analyse** God's word but it does not provide faith.

"²⁵ For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of
God is stronger than human strength.
(**1 Corinthians 1:25**)

Could AI replace Christian religion?

- New tool to **engage** with the **Gospel**.
- Supplement some **administrative** or **scholarly** religious functions.
- AI can aid but **cannot replace** the Christian **religion and faith**.

²⁴ And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, ²⁵ not
neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another,
and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.
(**Hebrews 10:24-25**)

Does the creation of AI threaten God?

- God is *sovereign* and AI as a tool does not threaten His existence or authority.
- God *transcends human's* innovation and revolutions.
- God retains *ultimate power*, and control to restrain or employ AI.

> [19] The LORD has established his throne in the heavens,
> and his kingdom rules over all.
> **(Psalm 103:19)**

Is AI a problem for humans in the future?

- Presents *challenges* but *opportunities* hence biblical guidance on *regulation*.
- *Regulation* can assist in *human flourishing* but *diminish* it if *not regulated*.
- *Biblical guidelines* for AI can *promote flourishing* and *mitigate diminishment*.

> [10] The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom,
> and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight.
> **(Proverbs 9:10)**

Should Christians fear Artificial Intelligence?

Why should Christians care about artificial intelligence?

- Society and *lifestyles* influenced by AI therefore the *Gospel* is needed.
- Engagement of *AI* needs to *align* with *biblical principles* and *teachings*.
- Immense *opportunity* to share the *Gospel* on a *huge scale*.

> [10] "For wisdom will enter your heart, and knowledge
> will be pleasant to your soul."
> (***Proverbs 2:10***)

Should Christian scientists fear artificial intelligence?

- Approach AI with *caution* but not fear – align AI with *biblical principles*.
- AI has the *potential* to bear so much more *good fruit* compared to bad.
- Align *biblical knowledge* in the development and end use of AI tools is key.

> [7] "For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of
> power and of love and of a sound mind."
> (***2 Timothy 1:7***)

Conclusions

Should Christians Scientists Fear Artificial Intelligence? Short answer: No.

1. **What does the Bible say about AI? Not much.**
   - Biblical knowledge and wisdom should be applied to the use of AI.
   - Biblical stewardship should be applied to creation to glorify God.

2. **Can scientists use AI to understand God? Technically, yes.**
   - AI can be used to better understand God.
   - AI cannot replace the Christian religion.

3. **Is AI a threat to God and human creation? Not really.**
   - AI does not threaten God or His creation.
   - AI is likely to progress human flourishing.

Three Christian virtues that can be applied to AI use in gospel work: Faith-Hope-Love

"Evidence-based approach initial, but deeper trust-based on something more"

Forming a Christian Mind Conference, 17 Feb 2024

Dr David Glass. Senior Lecturer in Computer Science Member of the Artificial Intelligence Research Centre at Ulster University, Belfast; Northen Ireland.

Artificial intelligence (AI) testifies to God's ingenuity and sovereign power. It can be used as a tool to spread the gospel and His word. Although AI may be used to for creative evil, we do not need to fear AI. We need not fear an artificial intelligence that cannot create a soul or destroy it. What we do need to fear is the God. Fear Him the one who can destroy both body and soul in hell.

7 Submit yourselves then to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.
(James 4:7)

28 And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell.
(Matthew 10:28)